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Sección: Documentos británicos

ANEXO 1

03

Miscellaneous No. 1 (1985)

FIFTH REPORT FROM THE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Session 1983–84

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Observations by Her Majesty's Government

Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
February 1985

LONDON
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and appears to misconstrue his main point, which was to underline the administrative complexity of land sub-division. The Government reject the Committee's comments about the approach to the pace of land transfer (paragraph 139) and the suggestion that those responsible for administering the policy lack commitment and enthusiasm (paragraph 175).

Economic development and diversification

40. The economy of the Falkland Islands is small, undiversified, with a poor endowment of natural resources, a small and scattered population and remote from major markets. These constraints, as the Committee acknowledge, largely determine the scope for diversification of activities. Because of the small population and limited internal market, measures to meet local needs will be relatively small-scale. A dairy, market gardening and service industries are examples of initiatives which have been taken. Export opportunities are largely confined to those based on the Islands' chief natural resources, sheep and fish. A wool mill and a pilot project to develop inshore fisheries have been established; and the Falkland Islands Government are considering various proposals for providing services for offshore fishing fleets.

41. The Government agree with the Committee's conclusion, therefore, (paragraph 142) that the greatest emphasis on diversifying activities should lie within the framework of the present agricultural economy, but do not share the Committee's view that these activities should be directed mainly at satisfying local demand (*ibid*): the internal market is small, so efforts to broaden the export base are also required.

42. The Government agree with the view of the Committee (paragraphs 143–145) that there are considerable political and practical problems to be overcome in relation to the regulation and licensing of fishing in the area of the Falklands and Dependencies, and we note the Committee's view (paragraph 145) that the establishment of an Exclusive Fishing Zone cannot be justified. The Government are considering actively what measures would be most appropriate in the circumstances of the Falklands, not least in view of the environmental and conservation issues involved.

43. The Committee recommend (paragraph 150) that the Falkland Islands Government should undertake a detailed study of internal transport needs. The Government's statement of 8 December 1982 made clear our reservations about Lord Shackleton's proposals for a major expansion of the road network. The capital costs would be high, and maintenance would impose a very heavy budgetary burden on the Falkland Islands Government. Resources have been earmarked for the improvement of selected Camp tracks; and construction of a road linking Stanley with the new airport at Mount Pleasant is well in progress.

44. The Falkland Islands Government are aware of the potential of wind turbines (paragraph 151) and other alternative forms of energy, and will keep their use under review. In the past, there have been justifiable reservations about the introduction of new and untried technology into a

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Fifth Report from the

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Session 1983–84

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Report with Annexes, together with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence and Appendices

Volume I

Report and Minutes of Proceedings

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(For Minutes of Evidence and Appendices see H.C. 268-II)

dependence on the production of sheep for wool, ranging from the encouragement of other forms of agricultural production to serve the Islands' own needs, and the local production of wool products for export, to more ambitious projects such as salmon ranching and shell fish fisheries, and the promotion of tourism. Lord Shackleton's main emphasis, however, was—in our view quite properly—on the need for remedial action to improve the productivity and efficiency of the wool industry itself, there being "a grave danger of regression to a primative form of land utilisation as practised during the early phase of colonisation".[140] To this end, he recommended in particular the extension of the work of the existing Grasslands Trials Unit and the appointment of a Farm Management Adviser. The first of these recommendations was carried out with relative speed, the GTU having been re-orientated and expanded into what is now known as the Falklands Islands Agricultural Research and Development Centre.[141] The recruitment of a Farm Management Adviser, to work with the new Development Corporation, was "in progress" when we took evidence from the ODA in June.[142]

141. The Falkland Islands Government and the ODA also appear to have moved expeditiously to respond to Lord Shackleton's proposal that the potential for and feasibility of local wool processing should be investigated: following UK-funded training in Scotland, a local couple are now in process of establishing a wool mill at Fox Bay East, financed by a loan from the Falkland Islands Government.[143] This represents the ideal form of development for the Islands, drawing on their staple product and marketing a product with a unique Falklands characteristic.

142. While we welcome the Government's support for Lord Shackleton's proposals, we have misgivings about some of those which would involve the development of entirely new and uncertain economic activities, such as salmon ranching, shell fisheries or the expansion of tourism, largely outside the experience of the present population of sheep farmers. Although studies of some of these activities may eventually yield fruit, they are rightly being pursued by the ODA and the Falkland Islands Government with a degree of caution. **In our view, the greatest emphasis should be placed on means of diversifying activities within the framework of the present agricultural economy and with the active participation of the present population of the Islands.** Where diversification into other areas is encouraged, it would be better directed in the first place towards the growth of greater self-sufficiency for the Islands themselves: for instance, improvement in market gardening, dairy production and the means of distributing such products, and the development of a small fishing fleet to serve local needs, may prove to be of greater economic benefit to the Islands in the near future than more ambitious schemes involving the development of new industries with export prospects particularly uncertain in view of the cost and difficulties of communication and transport between the Islands and the outside world.

A Fisheries Zone

143. Lord Shackleton recommended, in his 1982 Report, the establishment of 200-mile fisheries limits around the Falklands and the Dependencies. When

[140] Shackleton (1982), para 6.7.1.
[141] Evidence p95 (1983–84).
[142] QQ220, 509 (footnote) (1983–84).
[143] Evidence, pp11, 95; QQ89, 202 (1983–84).

announcing his conclusions on the Shackleton Report, the Foreign Secretary indicated that the proposal for a fisheries limit, or Exclusive Fishing Zone, required "further study".[144]

144. The Falkland Islanders themselves have, not surprisingly, exhibited enormous enthusiasm for the establishment of a Fishing Zone. The Legislative Council agreed on 22 November 1983 to request HM Government to establish such a zone in order (i) to control the existing unlimited fishing in Falklands waters and (ii) "to provide revenue which will guarantee a balanced budget in the future and provide funds for the further development of these Islands". The then Falkland Islands Government representative in London, Mr Monk, told us in February that revenue from fishing was "crucial" to the Falkland Islands Government and that the Islands were unlikely to become economically viable without it.[145] The newly-appointed Chief Executive conceded that "it clearly would be helpful to the Falkland Islands Government if they could increase revenue in that way".[146]

145. Despite the environmental drawbacks of the existing free-for-all[147] in Falkland waters, **we are not convinced that the establishment of an Exclusive Fishing Zone in Falklands waters can be justified.**

146. There is undoubtedly a strong case for the regulation and licensing of fishing in the area of the Falklands and Dependencies, but there are considerable political and practical problems to be overcome. In the first place, if it were not for the existence of the sovereignty dispute, it is a matter which would be expected to be pursued in consultation with the Falklands' neighbours, including Argentina. In the second place, there must be doubts about the international acceptability of a unilaterally-imposed zone, particularly amongst third-world and communist countires, in view of their sympathy for the Argentine sovereignty case. In consequence, the policing of such a zone would raise difficult legal problems and would be likely to be expensive. It would not necessarily be a proper function for the Royal Navy vessels deployed in the area, nor do we believe that HM Government should lightly enter into commitments which would increase, rather than reduce, the need for a large naval presence in the South Atlantic.

147. **We very much hope that the Falkland Islands Government will, rather than merely looking forward to the revenue which might accrue to them from the establishment of a Fishing Zone, look more positively at the possibility of establishing an indigenous fishing fleet and also at the opportunities created by the presence of trawler fleets in the area for the provision of commercial services for those fleets.** We are encouraged that some thought is being given to this possibility in connection with the proposed construction of a deep water jetty and the commissioning of he new airport.[148]

Infrastructure and communications

148. To improve the internal and external communications available to the Falkland Islanders, Lord Shackleton recommended the extension of the runway

[144] *Official Report*, 8 December 1982, col 851.
[145] QQ87–88 (1983–84).
[146] Q227 (1983–84).
[147] QQ117–9 (1983–84).
[148] QQ239–40, 101 (1983–84).

5

No. 169 TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 1986 5033

ORDER PAPER

90 W Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what are the latest estimates for the total costs of the Falklands Garrison its supply and maintenance for the financial years: (a) 1985-86, (b) 1986-87 and (c) 1987-88.

92 Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions there were with the United States Government prior to the announcement of the new fisheries zone around the Falklands; and if he will make a statement.

93 W Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwelath Affairs, what is the strength of the fisheries protection fleet planned for the Falklands; when they are expected to be on station; where the crew will be recruited from; what the arrangements will be for supply and relief; and to whom and how the fleet will be directly responsible.

94 W Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions took place with governments of member states of the European Community prior to the announcement of the Falklands fisheries zone.

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142 Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what is the current strength of the Falklands Garrison in each category; what is the projected final stable complement; and when that is expetced to be achieved.

143 W Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has received any representation from the Countryside Commission to make a traffic regulation order banning motor vehicles from the byway section of the Ridgeway west of Streatley in Berkshire.

144 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report, column 323, what advice has been given to the Falkland Islands Government concerning the purchase of civilian fisheries protection vessels.

145 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report, column 323, what is the total area, expressed in square kilometres, of the 200 miles fisheries limit around the Falkland Islands.

146 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report, column 323, what advice has been given to the Falkland Islands Government concerning the number and type of fisheries protection vessels to be used in the policing of the fisheries conservation zone.

147 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October Official Report, column 323, if the Falkland Islands Government has approached Her Majesty's Government with a request for the leasing of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or DAF(S) fisheries protection vessels.

148 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October Official Report, column 323, what consultations have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Falkland Islands Government concerning the ascquisition of civilian surveillance aircraft to be used in the policing of the fisheries conservation zone.

149 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what advice Her Majesty's Government has offered to the Falkland Islands Government concerning the policy on and mechanics of inspection and the boarding of fishing vessels operating or fishing inside the fishery conservation zone.

150 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if it is Her Majesty's Government's intention to provide advice to the Falkland Islands Government on the level of penalty appropriate to offences involving breaches of the law relating to fishing; and if he will make a statement.

151 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report, column 323, if it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to provide financial assistance to the Falkland Islands Council for the purchase of fisheries protection vessels; and if he will make a statement.

152 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report, column 323, what discussions have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Falkland Islands Government concerning the structure, management and financial costs of a fisheries protection service.

153 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report, column 323, if British personnel will crew the fisheries protection vessels to be used in the policing of the fisheries conservation zone.

154 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the statement of 29th October, Official Report column 323, what advice Her Majesty's Government has gnven to the Falkland Islands Government concerning the recruitment, selection, training and terms and conditions of employment of officers and crews of the fisheries protection vessels to be used in the policing of the fisheries conservation zone.

155 W Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to employ vessels of the Royal Navy in conjunction with policing of the Falklands Island fisheries conservation zone from 1st February 1987; and if he will make a statement.

156 Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for
W Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Falkland Islands Government concerning the licensing and total allowable catch limits of fishing activities within the Falkland Islands fisheries conservation zone.

157 Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State for
W Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the European Eoconomic Community concerning the imposition of a fisheries limit around the Falkland Islands.

158 Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State
W for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Falkland Islands Government concerning the preferential licensing treatment for the fishing vessels of European Economic Community nations seeking to fish within the Falkland Islands fisheries conservation zone.

159 Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Secretary of State
W for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, which stocks of fish are currently most seriously threatened in the Falkland Islands fisheries conservation zone.

160 Dr Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): To ask the Prime Minister, if
W is the intention of Her Majesty's Goveranment to second Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or DAFS fisheries protection service personnel to the Falklands Islands Government in order to assist the latter in the establishment of a fisheries protection service.

South Atlantic Fisheries

3.34 pm

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Geoffrey Howe): With permission, I should like to make a statement on South Atlantic fisheries.

The Government are today taking steps to establish a Falkland Islands interim conservation and management zone. It will be generally of 150 miles radius from the Falkland Islands. At the same time we are declaring the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to a fisheries limit of 200 miles, subject to delimitation with Argentina. We are also confirming our rights to jurisdiction over the continental shelf up to the limits prescribed by the rules of international law.

The necessary legislative measures will be introduced shortly in the Falkland Islands. Our action is taken in agreement with the Governor and his Executive Council. We are informing the fishing nations, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, our allies and partners, the European Commission, the United Nations and other Governments concerned, including Argentina. Copies of the declaration have been placed in the Library of the House.

The House will know that the rapid increase in fishing in the south-west Atlantic, with its serious impact on fish stocks there, has aroused widespread concern. The Government share that concern and have been active in trying to meet it.

From the outset, the Government took the view that the problem would best be solved on a collaborative basis. Accordingly, as a result of a British initiative in March 1985, a study was launched last November at the Food and Agriculture Organisation. We gave it every support. We saw this as the first step to agreeing multilateral conservation and management arrangements under FAO auspices. In public, and directly to the Argentine Government, I made clear our view that a solution without prejudice to our respective positions on sovereignty could and should be found. However, fome fishing nations have not co-operated fully with the FAO study, and its preparation has been delayed.

Pending completion of the study, we took steps to reduce by voluntary means the impact of the fishing effort in the 1986 season. We had hoped to extend these voluntary arrangements into 1987.

Argentina has pursued a different course, and her actions have undermined the multilateral approach. In particular, Argentina has embarkd on aggressive patrolling more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands. Unlawful use of force by Argentina led in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel. Argentina has concluded bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. Through these agreements Argentina purports to exercise jurisdiction that is a matter of international law the entitlement of the Falkland Islands. These agreements are incompatible with the multilateral initiative.

In sum, the Argentine Government's recent actions show an indifference to conservation needs and a preference for obstruction rather then co-operation. The Government are determined that there should be adequate protection for the fishery. In view of the failure of Argentina to co-operate in a multilateral approach, we have therefore decided to establish unilaterally a conservation and management regime. We remain, however, ready to work for a multilateral arrangement, which would still be our preference, just as soon as that can be achieved. I have made this clear to the Argentine Foreign Minister and suggested to him that we should review how Britain and Argentina can co-operate to support conservation on a regional basis.

The legislation to be introduced by the Falkland Islands Government will take effect from 1 February 1987. Its aim will be to preserve the viability of the fishery. Fishing within the conservation zone will be licensed by the Falkland Islands Government. Licensing will reflect conservation needs. The Falkland Islands Government will use its own civilian fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft.

Revenue and costs will be for the Falkland Islands Government. The conservation zone for most of its circumference will be co-extensive with the protection zone. Our forces stationed at the Falklands will continue to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone.

Mr. Denis Healey (Leeds, East): The Foreign Secretary will be aware that he has made a very serious statement which embeds Her Majesty's Government still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment. He knows that his announcement is bound to make negotiations with Argentina more difficult and to reduce still further the minuscule minority of Governments in the United Nations who support the British position on this issue. The right hon. and learned Gentleman has just announced the unilateral imposition of a fishing zone around the Falklands, which is something that he told the House last year was not justified. In his statement to the House on 14 March 1985 he explicitly supported the Select Commitee for drawing attention to the "political and practical problems" of policing such a zone when it comprises some 70,000 square miles of ocean, in part overlapping a zone already established by Argentina. He has dumped the responsibility for policing such a zone on the population of the Falklands, which is half that of the average parish in the United Kingdom. Does the right hon. and learned Gentleman regard the Falklands Government as being free to use force in imposing this unilateral decision against any fishing vessel which may, without agreement, fish in the zone?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The right hon. Gentleman is entirely right to draw attention to the fact that 18 months ago it was still our view that we should strive to achieve a multilateral agreement on this matter. It is for that reason that we have striven so hard to do so and why it was only after the lapse of that time and in face of the actions of the Government of Argentina, that I have listed, that we reached the conclusion that a unilateral regime has to be imposed at this time. As I said in the statement, we remain ready and willing to achieve a multilateral regime as soon as possible. It must be the Government of Argentina who take the steps to make that possible. They have failed to do so thus far.

There is no question of Her Majesty's Government embedding themselves deeper in a quagmire, which was the graphic phrase chosen by the right hon. Gentleman. We are asserting, as is necessary, the maintenance of our sovereignty, the preservation of fish stocks in the south Atlantic and the jurisdiction we are entitled and obliged

[Sir Geoffrey Howe]

to exercise. The policing of the fisheries conservation zone will be undertaken by civilian surveillance aircraft and fisheries protection vessels of the Falklands Government. That will be comparable to the division made in United Kingdom waters. It is open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falkland Islands, as well as in waters elsewhere within our jurisdiction.

Sir Peter Blaker (Blackpool, South): Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that he will receive the wholehearted support of the Conservative Benches for the decisive action that he has taken and that we, at any rate, will reject the surly and weak-kneed reaction of the right hon. Member for Leeds, East (Mr. Healey)? Is it not perfectly clear that, if the Government had not been prepared to take such decisive action now, there would have been lasting and serious damage to the fishery stocks of the South Atlantic, with harm not only to the Falkland Islanders but to a much wider range of countries as well?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am grateful for the support of my right hon. Friend. He is precisely right in his diagnosis of what would have happened had we not taken the action which he commends.

Dr. David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport): On the grounds of, fishing and fish stock conservation alone, I believe that the statement was fully justified. However, was it naval grounds which made the Foreign Secretary limit it to 150 miles, which seems prudent? Will the Foreign Secretary now say to the Government of Argentina that, although he is not ready to consider a transfer of sovereignty to Argentina, he is ready to discuss other alternatives such as pooling sovereignty and a possible transfer of sovereignty to the Security Council of the United Nations?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am grateful for the right hon. Gentleman's first comment. The decision on the precise extent of the zone depends, among other things, on what is practical and sensible to set out in the circumstances within the maximum 200 miles that we could have claimed. Sovereignty remains a matter which is not for negotiation. It is not possible to contemplate moving in that direction when one realises the total reluctance of the Government of Argentina to take even the most elementary steps towards normalising relations along the lines we have so often described.

Sir Anthony Kershaw (Stroud): The long delay in coming to a decision has been harmful to fish stocks. Is it not yet another illustration of the impossibility of coming to an agreement about anything with the present Government of Argentina? Will my right hon. and learned Friend ensure that the Falklands Government have enough resources to police the area?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: That is the basis of the decision on which the Falkland Islands Government will be provided with the resources that I have mentioned, with the availability of Her Majesty's forces at the Falklands to maintain the security and integrity of the protection zone.

Mr. Stuart Randall (Kingston upon Hull, West): Is the Foreign Secretary aware that, if his statement is to be in any way meaningful to the British fishing industry, the owners of the much depleted distant-water fleets will have to convince their bankers that the new regime that he has announced will be secure and will stop the depletion of stocks? Is he further aware of the desperate financial plight of the distant-water sector of the fishing industry? Finally, does he believe that what he has said today will provide sufficient confidence to create the level of bank lending necessary?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am grateful to the hon. Gentleman for raising those practical questions. He will recollect that some companies already have joint ventures with some of the far eastern fishing fleets and that other joint ventures are under discussion. The number of British vessels among those already fishing around the Falklands is a small proportion of the total. We hope that the establishment of this conservation zone will offer scope for the expansion of British fishing efforts in those waters because within the framework of the conservation regime, first priority will be given to vessels connected with the Falklands. We hope that the British element will grow rapidly. We believe that the arrangements that we have made will be adequate for the protection of the zone with the support of Her Majesty's forces in appropriate circumstances.

Mr. Michael Shersby (Uxbridge): Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that his statement will be warmly welcomed by our fellow citizens in the Falkland Islands and every member of the Commonwealth Palrliamentary Association Falkland Islands group in this House? What estimate has been made of the additional revenue to the Falkland Islands from the licensing arrangements? Are additional facilities expected in Port Stanley for the revictualling or refuelling of ships which will use the port as a result of the agreement?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The revenue will depend on the number of licences applied for and issued. We expect the revenue to make a useful addition to that of the Falkland Islands Government, taking account of their present financial circumstances. The facilities on the islands will be considered in the light of the scale of demand that develops.

Mr. Dick Douglas (Dunfermline, West): Will the Foreign Secretary concede that much of the difficulty could have been obviated if the Government had shown more enthusiasm for the third United Nations convention on the law of the sea? How does this particular proposal stand in relation to that convention? The Foreign Secretary mentioned the division of the continental shelf. How does he propose to have the Falkland Islands Government negotiate median lines with neighbouring states, including Argentina?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: On the law of the sea, the 200-mile zone, within which the fishery conservation zone is being established, does not depend on the convention. That has been accepted by the International Court of Justice. On the continental shelf and the question of delimitation on the south-western side, facing Argentina, we have taken account of the need for delimitation in the precise border of the zone that we have established. Beyond that it would be a matter for negotiation, which we hope can take place.

Sir Anthony Buck (Colchester, North): Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that his statement will be welcomed by most of us—at least by those of us who have had the privilege of visiting the Falkland Islands?

Will he say a little more about the enforcement of the arrangements? It seems hard that the burden should fall in the way in which he describes. Might it not be necessary for there to be further Royal Navy or Royal Air Force deployment there to assist with the enforcement of these arrangements?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: No, Sir. The position is the same as in every other area where fishery rights are being protected. The function of fisheries protection is undertaken by the fisheries protection resources, which will consist of civilian Falkland Islands Government fisheries officers with a surveillance aircraft and two fisheries protection vessels. That is comparable to provision in United Kingdom waters and should be adequate for the purposes. If there were a need for further support, as everywhere else, it is open to the Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances. The tasks of the existing garrison will continue to be to deter Argentine aggression and to maintain the integrity of the Falkland Islands protection zone.

Mr. Mark Hughes (City of Durham): I should like to follow precisely that point. Are the resources for the Falkland Islands Government in manpower and ships other than utterly inadequate to deal with the size of Russian, Japanese and other machinery there? Is it not completely erroneous to believe that they can cope without bringing the British military presence into direct confrontation?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: No, if the matter is handled normally, as it is in other parts of the world. The scale of the fishery protection resources available is believed to be adequate, and comparable to provisions made in United Kingdom waters. Beyond that, the resources of the garrison remain available to deter Argentine aggression and to maintain the integrity of the protection zone.

Mr. David Crouch (Canterbury): The Government have shown great patience in trying to get a multilateral agreement on this important matter. I cannot agree with the right hon. Member for Leeds, East (Mr. Healey) that it will exacerbate relations between our two Governments. The Argentine government, I might remind my right hon. and learned Friend, had already made separate fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. I believe that they feel that it is strange that we have not done anything to conserve fish, but now we are doing something.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am grateful to my hon. Friend. One factor that we took into account was the fact that Argentina had been making agreements of this kind with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, purporting to exercise jurisdiction—as a matter of international law, however, it is the entitlement of the Falkland Islands — and making agreements that were incompatible with the multilateral initiative. Because of that, we felt obliged to take this measure unilaterally. We remain anxious to secure a multilateral conclusion if that is possible.

Mr. A. J. Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed): Was it not impossible to secure agreement with Argentina on this issue as long as the British Government refused even to discuss sovereignty with them? That being so, would it not have been better to listen to the pleas of the fishing industry much earlier, to take temporary action of this kind before the East European trawlers came in to scoop the pool, and to get on with the job of improving Britain's diplomatic relations with Argentina?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I fancy that I detect a certain difference of emphasis on this between the hon. Gentleman and his right hon. partner on the Front bench the Member for Plymouth, Devonport (Dr. Owen). We have been trying, since we took our initiative at the beginning of last year, to establish a multilateral fishery conservation regime, but that has proved impossible. Argentina has taken the actions that I have mentioned, which make it even more difficult to achieve. In those circumstances, to suggest that it would be easier to negotiate about sovereignty than about this single practical thing seems absurd.

Mr. John Townend (Bridlington): May I congratulate my right hon. and learned Friend on this decision and observe that it is better late than never? To what extent will there be increased opportunities for the British deep-sea fishing industry in that the Government could negotiate rights for foreign vessels to fish in Falklands waters in return for increased opportunities for British vessels to fish in other countries' waters?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: That question extends national ambitions in a sensible fashion, which should be taken account of. The key is that we have created a framework which existing joint ventures between British fishing vessels and others in Falklands waters can begin to expand. That may create other opportunities.

Dr. Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): In the interests of conserving these valuable stocks, a decision was certainly needed. I argued some two years ago in an article in the *Glasgow Herald* that we needed a bilateral fisheries agreement between Britain and Argentina in the hope that it would diminish hostility between the two. Anyone with a knowledge of the fishing industry and of the fisheries protection service knows that a fisheries protection service cannot be introduced in circumstances such as these overnight. It is a complicated business.

Bearing in mind the difficulties associated with policing fishing activities, do the Government intend to transfer one or two unarmed fisheries protection vessels from the United Kingdom fleet to help the Falklanders manage the stocks?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am grateful that the decision to establish a conservation regime is in line with the advice offered by the hon. Gentleman at an earlier stage, and I am glad that he endorses——

Mr. George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): My hon. Friend wanted a bilateral agreement with Agrentina.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Let me answer the hon. Gentleman's question. The hon. Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (Mr. Foulkes) must contain himself.

I am also glad to respond to the advice of the hon. Member for Greenock and Port Glasgow (Dr. Godman) about the desirability of achieving, if possible, a bilateral-multilateral regime. It is for that reason that we have striven for so long to do it. It is for that reason, as I have said, that we remain ready to work for a multilateral arrangement, which would still be our preference. I have

[Sir Geoffrey Howe]

made that clear to the Argentine Government. In the absence of that, we have to take this action, as I think the hon. Gentleman recognises. Fisheries protection vessels will be in place by the time the zone comes into effect on 1 February 1987. That is why I gave that as the date of commencement. The necessary support from armed forces, if it became necessary, would come from the present garrison at the Falklands.

Mr. Keith Speed (Ashford): Although I welcome my right hon. and learned Friend's statement, I must point out to him that two small civilian craft and a light aircraft are unlikely to be able to provide proper enforcement. Is he aware that earlier this year the Argentines carried out an armed attack upon a Taiwanese trawler, resulting in loss of life, and that it is hopeless to try to compare the threat in United Kingdom waters with a threat in the south Atlantic? Will my right hon. and learned Friend look at enforcement again? We need to have the Royal Navy in visible back-up to the civilian craft.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am fully aware of the facts pointed out by my hon. Friend. The attack to which he refers was a matter that I identified as one of the reasons why it was necessary to take the action. What I am saying — it is perfectly plain — is that, for fisheries protection purposes, the resources that I have described should be adequate and are comparable to those that are normally necessary. But, of course, it will be the task of the garrison to continue to deter Argentine aggression and to continue to maintain the integrity of the protection zone, which is substantially co-extensive with the conservation zone.

Mr. Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby): I think that the decision will be welcomed by both the fishing industry and the Falkland Islands because the waters were being overfished, and without the certainty of limits and help in investment, it is unlikely that the British fishing industry would participate in developing the stocks there. But at the same time is not the Foreign Secretary wrong to place the entire burden of enforcing the regime on the pathetic resources available to the Falkland Islands? Up to now, his argument has been that we should not impose fishing limits because of the certainty that they would be defied and the difficulty of enforcing them. In placing that burden on the Falkland Islands now, is he not really showing the courage of his own lack of convictions?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The hon. Gentleman must understand precisely what the position is. We refrained from taking the action until now because we believed, as I think the whole House would wish us to, that it was better to try to achieve a multilateral regime if possible. We initiated that through the Food and Agricultural Organisation and have been working to that end. Unfortunately, for the reasons that I have given, that has not proved possible, so we are taking this decision to put the unilateral regime in place. I repeat: the regime depends on two components — first, upon the establishment of the normal fisheries protection resources that I have described, and in addition upon the availability around the Falkland Islands, as would be necessary anywhere else, of Her Majesty's armed forces, with the customary task of protecting the integrity of the protection zone and deterring Argentine aggression. It is for those reasons that the forces are on the islands, and for no other purpose.

Mr. Patrick McLoughlin (Derbyshire, West): Does my right hon. and learned Friend agree that, if the Argenti[ne] Government had negotiated on that point as on oth[er] points that he mentioned at Question Time, there wou[ld] have been no need for us to take the action, and that t[he] only reason why we have had to do so is the refusal by t[he] Argentine Government to negotiate and come to [an] agreement? In that case, it happens to be the Argenti[ne] Government's fault that the Government have had to ta[ke] the action: their hand has been forced.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am entirely grateful to my ho[n.] Friend. He made precisely the point that I made in m[y] statement. It was for the reason that he gave that we hav[e] taken the decision to establish the unilateral regime. [I] repeat: we should have preferred to achieve a multilater[al] regime. That remains our long-term preference.

Several Hon. Members *rose*——

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is to be an important debat[e] and a ten-minute Bill after this. I shall allow questions t[o] continue for a further five minutes, and then we must mov[e] on.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover): Is the Foreign Secretary aware that we all understand why he has come to the Dispatch Box today — for a bit of electioneering and flag-waving, trying to give the British people the impression that the Government will take on the Argies again without any fishing protection vessels 8,000 miles away? It will not go unnoticed in the coastal and fishery areas of Britain that, while the Tory Government can suggest a 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands to protect fish stocks, they cannot do so for British fishermen around here. That will be the response of British fishermen. They will see the measure for what it is worth —a load of hypocrisy.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The hon. Gentleman speaks for a large number of constituencies, but I have not heard him speak with great credibility on behalf of the fishermen of England. Within the framework of the common fisheries policy, we have established a perfectly effective regime for the protection of British fishing interests in the waters around Britain and around the European Community.

Mr. Cyril D. Townsend (Bexleyheath): After waiting so long, would it not have been prudent to wait for a chance to read and study the FAO report? Is not the reality that the Royal Navy has been given an unwelcome burden in the north Atlantic when it is over-stretched? Does my right hon. and learned Friend appreciate that many serious commentators will see that what we have gained in fish stocks we have lost in attempting a realistic long-term policy on the problems of the south Atlantic?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I wish the matter was as simple and benign as my hon. Friend suggest. It is necessary, for the reasons I have outlined and in response to the performance of the Argentine Government, to take action to establish a unilateral regime after a long and patient attempt to establish a multilateral alternative. It would not have been possible to go on waiting for that to emerge from the work of the FAO because the appearance of the first draft of the report is not expected until at least the end of this year. It is important to take action from the beginning of the next fishery season at the beginning of February.

Mr. Tony Banks (Newham, North-West): Is the Foreign Secretary aware of the questions that I asked his

Department in July this year about the high mortality rate of rock hopper penguins in the Falkland Islands? One of the reasons advanced for the high mortality rate was over fishing around the Falkland Islands. Was concern for rock hopper penguins considered by the Foreign Secretary when he made his announcement? Can he tell the House what has been discovered by the Government about the cause of death among rock hoppers in the Falklands? Is he not aware that rock hoppers will be grateful to him for his statement today—the live ones, of course?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am sorry to have to disappoint the hon. Gentleman, but I must tell him that among the many factors leading us to take the decision, those that were not the most important were his own interests and the impact of puffinosis on penguins in the south Atlantic. Several thousand penguins, out of a population of about 4 million birds, are thought to have died from the effects of a seabird disease known as puffinosis. It is no doubt because of the hon. Gentleman's passionate interest in the subject that I am able to give him the additional information that tests at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food veterinary centre in Norwich showed unusually high concentrations of lead in the birds' tissues. Further research will be undertaken next year. But that interesting information had nothing to do with the motivation of today's decision.

Mr. Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford): As my right hon. and learned Friend knows, I was the only member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to vote in favour of the establishment of the fisheries zone, so I welcome his action. Can he really tell me that he has made no estimate, as he said to my hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge (Mr. Shersby), as to the revenue and the costs to the Falkland Islands? I trust that the revenue exceeds the costs.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: That is the broad basis on which the matter has been undertaken. Obviously, it is not possible to identify precisely, in advance, what the revenue will be. That depends on the number of licences that are issued. There is an expectation that the costs should be kept as low as possible. The costs should not exceed the licence revenue. It is no doubt on that same prudent premise that my hon. Friend voted so long ago for the measure that we have been wise enough to take today.

Mr. Tom Clarke (Monklands, West): Will the Foreign Secretary accept that what he has said so far about the costs of this exercise has been vague in the extreme? What consultations have taken place with the Falkland Islands Government? Has the Foreign Secretary given the Falkland Islands Government a blank cheque that, whatever happens, British conventional troops are at hand?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The decision to proceed to the unilateral regime has been discussed with the Falkland Islands Government, including the cost of implementation and policing, revenue as well as costs, and has led to the expectation that I have identified. The fisheries protection vessels will be the responsibility of the Falkland Islands Government. The defence of the integrity of the Falkland Islands protection zone will remain the responsibility of the forces in place in the Falklands at present.

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel): Does my right hon. and learned Friend accept that many of us who talked to Argentine parliamentarians recently in Buenos Aires made the point that the Government's action on Argentina is asserting sovereignty in the matter of Bulgaria and Russian agreements was bound to bring a response? Will he take this opportunity of responding to those Argentine parliamentarians who argue that the exclusion zone and some agreements in future on ending the state of hostilities should be treated as separate matters?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is probably prudent to treat all the various sources of conflict and argument separately from one another, with a view to seeing whether we can resolve any or other of them. I am quite glad to acknowledge that some people in Argentina realise the extent to which the actions of their Government made today's decision inevitable.

Mr. Eric Deakins (Walthamstow): How can we avoid an escalation of this dispute into another cod war?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: By a sensible response on the part of the Argentine Government. If they were willing to respond to the moves that we have been pressing ahead with for some months and agreed to the establishment of a multilateral zone, which we regard as far preferable, there would be no question of such a risk arising.

Mr. John Gorst (Hendon, North): Will my right hon. and learned Friend give an assurance that, when the fishing licences for far eastern fishing nations are considered, there will be no unfair discrimination against the Taiwanese squid fishermen who have been more diligent in respecting the conservation requirements of the area than many other fishermen from the same part of the world?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I do not think that I can begin, at this stage, to draw up policy guidelines in that much detail. I should like to take account of the way in which such behaviour has taken place in the past.

Mr. D. N. Campbell-Savours (Workington): Is the Foreign Secretary aware that the Government's policy will be seen as an act of aggression by the Soviet Union? Is he aware that the Falkland Islanders will not be able to police those waters; that the Soviet Union, which took out nearly 400,000 tonnes of fish down there last year, will not accept that Britain has the right to impose such restrictions; and that it will drive a coach and horses through the policies that the Government have set on course for a whiting war in the south Atlantic within 12 months? Is that what the Government want?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am aware that this exchange would not have been complete without the addition of the hon. Gentleman's uniquely misguided insight.

Mr. Neil Thorne (Ilford, South): In view of the enormous resources that have been removed from the area over recent years by Eastern bloc, Japanese and Taiwanese fishermen, can my right hon. and learned Friend say whether, because we have the wherewithal to provide the necessary policing that clearly will be required, it will be of any benefit to the British taxpayer?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: As to the position of the British taxpayer, as I have said, the responsibility for fisheries protection will be that of the Falkland Islands Government. It is hoped and expected that the cost will not exceed the licence revenue that is forthcoming. The cost of Her Majesty's forces in the neighbourhood remains

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[Sir Geoffrey Howe]

unchanged. They remain available as heretofore to maintain the integrity of the protection zone alongside which the borders of the conservation zone largely will march.

Sir Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds): Since the Falklands remains a colony, is parliamentary sanction needed for the changes in Falklands law that this statement implies? Will the Foreign Secretary place in the Library a list of the intrusions into the fishing zone so that we may know exactly what will happen? Does my right hon. and learned Friend recognise how warmly one can welcome the evidence that in this case, as in the case of his response to the Hindawi verdict, the smack of firm government is back in fashion in the Foreign Office?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am more than content to acknowledge the tribute paid by my hon. Friend in the spirit in which it was intended. The necessary legislative measures will be introduced in the Falkland islands. Copies of the declaration which underlie this statement have been placed in the Library. I shall consider whether it is possible to provide the additional information my hon. Friend has requested.

Mr. Foulkes: With respect, will the Foreign Secretary now answer the important question asked by my hon. Friend the Member for Workington (Mr. Campbell-Savours)? Specifically, what discussions took place with representatives of the Soviet Union before this announcement was made? Since the Soviet Union does not accept British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and has concluded a bilateral fishing agreement with Argentina, what does the Foreign Secretary expect will happen if a Soviet Union fishing fleet were to move into the 150-mile zone?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: This matter has been raised several times with the Soviet Union. Representatives of the Soviet Union have stated their intention to conduct themselves in a fashion that is not inconsistent with British claims in the area. Doubt about the interpretation and significance of the agreements entered into between the Soviet Union and Argentina and the likely intention of Argentina in that respect have led us to conclude that we need to act unilaterally to achieve the objective on which the whole House is agreed.

HANSARD COMUNES
29 OCT 86
VOL 103 Nº 165

Argentina

13. **Mr. Bob Edwards** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the past three months towards the normalisation of relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

16. **Mr. Dalyell** asked the Secretaryof State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on relations with Argentina over the Falkland Islands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We have repeatedly demonstrated our desire for more normal relations with Argentina. Regrettably, the Argentine Government still show no willingness to respond to the many initiatives we have taken since 1982.

Mr. Edwards: That is a very sad reply. It is vital that some encouragement should be given to this new, democratic Government in Argentina. If we can maintain diplomatic relations with Spain, which has a claim on Gibraltar, there should be no difficulty, now that there is a democratic Government in Argentina, about restoring diplomatic relations with that country. I hope that the Foreign Secretary will have another think about that vital question.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The fact remains that although Argentina now has a democratic Government, about which we have expressed congratulations many times, and a long time ago, the President of Argentina and the Argentine Government have shown no willingness to recognise the rights of the people of the Falkland Islands to have their wishes respected. All the initiatives that we have taken towards restoring normal relations have been rebutted by the Argentine Government. We abolished financial restrictions. The have done so only to a limited extent. We have proposed the resumption of air links but have received no response. We have lifted trading restrictions but have received no formal response. We allow Argentine vessels into British ports. They ban British vessels from Argentine ports. We have offered to return Argentine dead to their native land but the Argentines insist that they remain on the Falklands to support their claim to sovereignty over the islands. Spain and the United Kingdom are members of the European Community and the North Atlantic Alliance, but in terms of Britain and the Argentine we are the country against whom Argentina launched an armed assault four years ago.

Mr. Dalyell: Following the Gimenez visit, would it not at least be constructive to contact the International Red Cross with a view to visits to the Falklands by Argentine families?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I think that I heard the first part of the hon. Gentleman's question correctly. We have made a number of suggestions through the Red Cross about our willingness to accept next of kin visits to the Falkland Islands but we have had no response from the Argentine Government.

Mr. Crouch: As someone who recently spent nearly two weeks in Buenos Aires I can tell my right hon. and learned Friend that public opinion there is not in any way anti-British. There is strong feeling about just one item, the sovereignty of the Falklands, and it seems to be held largely by members of congress and by ministries and is not in the minds of the general public. Will my right hon. and learned Friend bear that in mind because underneath Government opinion in the Argentine there is a feeling that they want to re-establish good relations with Britain?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I understand the point made by my hon. Friend. The House will welcome his insight and that of this colleagues following the visit of the IPU delegation to Argentina. There is a great deal in the point that he makes. The United Kingdom has been trying to respond to the feeling he mentions by the suggestions that I have spoken about. We have suggested measure after measure to enable us to begin normalising relations with Argentina. The Argentina Government have repeatedly made clear that the only matter on which they wish to commence discussions is that of sovereignty. That is at the top of the agenda but it is the most difficult question and one on which we have made our position clear. That is why it is proving so difficult to bring about what my hon. Friend would like.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: During their discussions with representatives from the Falkland Islands, did Ministers not realise that if the financial terms were right the people of the Falkland Islands would accept resettlement? If they would not accept resettlement, they would certainly accept a change in sovereignty. In so far as some calculations put expenditure on the Falkands in excess of £1,000 million a year would it not be far more cost-effective to spend money on compensation rather than to squander taxpayers' money in the way that the Government are doing?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The House will have been somewhat astonished by the grisly spectacle of the hon. Gentleman speaking with such contempt about a matter of this kind. All we are seeking to do is to uphold the wishes of the people in the Falkland Islands. They are representatives of a community that lived undisturbed in those islands for more than 150 years until their life was brutally disturbed by the Argentine invasion only four years ago.

Mr. Foulkes: Does the Foreign Secretary not accept that, as it is now more than four years since the end of the Falklands war, it is regrettable that we do not have direct diplomatic relations with a basically friendly country, as Conservative Members have said? Will the Foreign Secretary take the opportunity of a new Brazilian ambassador coming to London to examine again the possibility of reopening direct diplomatic relations wth Argentina?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The longer the hon. Gentleman addresses himself to this question, the more he understands its difficulties. It is quite right to say that we would like to see the establishment of more normal relations with Argentina, without embarking on negotiations about sovereignty. It is in pursuit of precisely such relations that we have removed the restrictions I have listed. We have removed trade restrictions and have offered to remove all aeronautical restrictions. We have also removed financial restrictions, but to all those measures we have received no response, or less than a complete response from Argentina. The Argentina Government have not indicated their willingness to take the necessary steps down the road that the hon. Gentleman wishes them to take.

HANSARD COMUNES
29 OCT 86
Vol 103 N.º 165
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columnas 317 - 319

South Atlantic Fisheries

4.26 p.m.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Young): My Lords, with the leave of the House I shall now repeat a Statement on South Atlantic fisheries which is being made in another place by my right honourable and learned friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe. The Statement is as follows:

"The Government are today taking steps to establish a Falkland Islands interim conservation and management zone (FICZ). It will be generally of 150 miles radius from the Falkland Islands. At the same time we are declaring the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to a fisheries limit of 200 miles, subject to delimitation with Argentina. We are also confirming our rights to jurisdiction over the continental shelf up to the limits prescribed by the rules of international law.

"The necessary legislative measures will be introduced shortly in the Falkland Islands. Our action is taken in agreement with the Governor and his executive council. We are informing the fishing nations, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, our allies and partners, the European Commission, the United Nations and other governments concerned, including Argentina. Copies of the declaration have been placed in the Library of the House.

"The House will know that the rapid increase in fishing in the south-west Atlantic, with its serious impact on fish stocks there, has aroused widespread concern. The Government share that concern and have been active in trying to meet it.

"From the outset, the Government took the view that the problem would best be solved on a collaborative basis. Accordingly, as a result of a British initiative in March 1985, a study was launched last November at the Food and Agriculture Organisation. We gave it every support. We saw this as the first step to agreeing multilateral conservation and management arrangements under FAO auspices. In public, and directly to the Argentine Government, I made clear our view that a solution without prejudice to our respective positions on sovereignty could and should be found.

"However some fishing nations have not co-operated fully with the FAO study, and its preparation has been delayed.

"Pending completion of the study, we took steps to reduce by voluntary means the impact of the fishing effort in the 1986 season. We had hoped to extend these voluntary arrangements into 1987.

"Argentina has pursued a different course, and her actions have undermined the multilateral approach. In particular, Argentina has embarked on aggressive patrolling more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands. Unlawful use of force by Argentina led in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel. Argentina has concluded bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. Through these agreements Argentina purports to exercise jurisdiction that is as matter of international law the entitlement of Falkland Islands. These agreements are incompatible with the multilateral initiative.

"In sum, the Argentine Government's recent actions show an indifference to conservation needs and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation.

"The Government are determined that there should be adequate protection for the fishery. In view of the failure of Argentina to co-operate in a multilateral approach, we have therefore decided to establish unilaterally a conservation and managment regime. We remain, however, ready to work for a multilateral arrangement which would still be our preference, just as soon as that can be achieved. I have made this clear to the Argentine Foreign Minister and suggested to him that we should review how Britain and Argentina can co-operate to support conservation on a regional basis.

"The legislation to be introduced by the Falkland Islands Government will take effect from 1st February 1987. Its aim will be to preserve the viability of the fishery. Fishing within the conservation zone will be licensed by the Falkland Islands Government. Licensing will reflect conservation needs. The Falkland Islands Government will use its own civilian fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft. Revenue and costs will be for the Falkland Islands Government. The conservation zone for most of its circumference will be co-extensive with the protection zone. Our forces stationed at the Falklands will continue to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone."

My Lords, that concludes the Statement.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos: My Lords, we are grateful to the noble Baroness for repeating the Statement. We fully recognise the need to organise fishing in these waters with a view to proper conservation and we have noted with concern the evidence of over-fishing to which the Statement refers. As the House is aware, we have had several exchanges here on this subject over the last few months and we are also conscious that we still await the FAO report.

The establishment of the new zone—the FICZ referred to in the Statement—is an important departure, although we do not necessarily dissent from it. The noble Baroness has often reiterated the Government's adherence to a multilaterial agreement based upon the FAO report. Indeed, in March she said that she was convinced that a multilateral arrangement offers the best prospect of meeting all needs. On 2nd April in this House she said that she thought that the FAO report was an essential preliminary to the imposition of a multilaterial regime. I must therefore ask the noble Baroness why the Government have decided to change direction now. Why have the Government decided to act unilaterally at this point before the publication of the FAO report? Furthermore, is the noble Baroness able to say when the report is likely to be published? When it is available will the Government then propose to move towards consultations with a view to a multilateral agreement?

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Does the noble Baroness think that this unilateral action could create difficulties with the USSR and the Eastern European fishing nations whose fishing fleets are operating in these waters? We note that the Falkland Islands Government will use their own vessels and aircraft in these waters. Does the noble Baroness think that that is adequate, or is there a possibility of confrontation and some danger to the ships and the aircraft? I understand—and perhaps the noble Baroness will confirm this—that two ships are involved and of course those ships (as again I am sure the noble Baroness will confirm) are quite unarmed.

Given what the Statement says about the aggressive patrolling which is now going on, I assume that the Government will be prepared to defend the ships and the aircraft if that becomes necessary. Finally, will the noble Baroness tell the House how it is proposed to use the licence fee money? Is she able to give some estimate of what it might amount to? Will it be used to establish a company in the Falkland Islands to supply the full needs of the foreign fleets operating in the area?

Lord Grimond: My Lords, I, too, should like to thank the noble Baroness for repeating the Statement. I congratulate the Government on their efforts to obtain some multilateral agreement and regret that that has not been possible. I should like to ask further questions about the new fisheries zone. Has it been drawn up largely for reasons of international law or are the actual fishing conditions in the South Atlantic taken into account? It seems to me to be very much the same kind of zone as we have heard a good deal about in the North Sea. I should like to be assured that such matters as the migration of fish in the South Atlantic and the type of fishing—whether it is industrial fishing or whether we hope to establish some kind of in-shore shipping there—have also been taken into account.

It is a very large area indeed and it presumably runs from the heads of the land and will be extremely difficult to patrol. I therefore ask the noble Baroness, in addition to what has already been asked, what ships and aircraft the Falkland Islanders have at their disposal for this purpose. It is not enough to have aircraft, because some of the ships—clearly the Argentine ships—will not obey orders and may have to be boarded. It would be interesting to know what vessels the Falklanders have at their disposal other than those of the Navy for carrying out this task.

I remind your Lordships that the total population of the Falklands is about the size of a large village. Even by Orkney standards it is very small indeed. If Orkney had to enforce a 200-mile limit it would be hard put to do so.

First, are there courts in the Falkland Islands to try those who have been carrying out illegal fishing and are they empowered to enforce the very heavy penalties which are the only effective ones? The value of fishing catches is now enormous and unless the courts are empowered to levy very heavy fines or imprison skippers they will simply take no notice.

Finally, as regards licensing, are foreign nations to be allowed to apply for licences? I take the view that licensing is the ultimate solution to most fishing difficulties and that zones are very difficult to enforce. However, may I take it that other South American nations—and, indeed, other world nations—will be entitled to apply for licences? If so, to whom do they apply and on what conditions?

Baroness Young: My Lords, I should like to thank both the noble Lord, Lord Cledwyn, and the noble Lord, Lord Grimond, for their response to this Statement. I confirm again to both noble Lords that we have been very concerned about the conservation of fish stocks. I have been conscious that this point has been raised on many occasions by noble Lords from all parts of the House.

The noble Lord, Lord Cledwyn, asked me a number of quite specific points on the Statement. First, he quoted what I had said about the Government's hope that we would achieve a multilateral regime—a point, which the Statement itself makes. As again the Statement makes clear, the unilateral option was always available to us. We hope that we may move towards a multilateral regime, but in the meantime we have, as the Statement makes clear, proposed the arrangement of an interim zone.

The noble Lord asked me when we thought the FAO report would be published. So far as we know, it should be published by the end of the year. It is a technical study of the state of the fish stocks. We had hoped to receive it this summer and it is unfortunate that it has been delayed. Our latest information is that it is expected by the end of the year. The noble Lord then asked me whether we would be having consultations about this matter. Of course we would have to discuss the report, but the fact is that the fishing fleets would now be preparing to go to the South Atlantic because the fishing season starts early in the year, January–February, and therefore it is necessary to have something in place before the next season.

The noble Lord asked me specifically whether we thought there might be any difficulties either with the USSR or with the Eastern European fishing nations. Again, if I may repeat this point, we believe that it is in the interests of all fishing nations to ensure that the fishery remains viable both ecologically and commercially. We therefore look to all the nations that fish there to comply with the licensing regime which will enable that to take place.

The noble Lord then asked me whether we thought there might be some confrontation and possible danger to our ships. I do not think that this would be the case if the other fishing nations behaved lawfully. It is important in this connection to note that only two days ago there was a Brazilian proposal at the United Nations to establish a South Atlantic zone of peace. It was co-sponsored by Argentina with Brazil, and we supported it at the United Nations. I think that this indicates that Britain and Argentina can vote in the same way when we have a common interest, and we hope that all the fishing nations will recognise that there is a common interest in the preservation of the stocks.

Finally, the noble Lord asked me about defending our ships and aircraft. The fact is that we hope there will be two civilian ships and a civilian aircraft. We hope that this will not be something that we are called upon to do; and certainly not if the fishing nations behave lawfully. But of course the fact of the matter is

[BARONESS YOUNG.]

that it is open to us to use armed forces should this be appropriate. However, it is our hope, for the reasons I have given, that this will not be necessary, and it is going to be patrolled by a civilian force.

The noble Lord, Lord Grimond, asked me about the ships and aircraft, and I hope he will accept that I have answered that question. He then went on to ask me whether there would be courts in the Falkland Islands able to try those fishing illegally. The answer is yes, there would be. There would be a magistrates' court. An ordinance is to be passed in the Falkland Islands early in November laying down the penalties.

Lord Campbell of Croy: My Lords, is my noble friend aware that many of us will warmly welcome her Statement today, because the previous policy of the Government, although well-intentioned, was taking much too long? In the meantime, the long-distance fleets from far away, such as Japan and the Soviet Union, were making serious inroads into the stocks of fish in that area.

As regards the question from the noble Lord, Lord Cledwyn, will my noble friend accept the congratulations of at least one Member of this House on having taken this decision now, because it was I who pressed in a Question and supplementaries at the end of July, just before the Recess, that the Government should make such a change? I am sure that many people will welcome the Statement today.

Baroness Young: My Lords, I should like to thank my noble friend Lord Campbell of Croy for his warm reception of this Statement.

4.45 p.m.

Lord Shackleton: My Lords, perhaps I may congratulate the noble Baroness and tell her that there is another Member of your Lordships' House who is pleased. The recommendation that I made four years and two months ago is finally being implemented. This has been a subject of continuous pressure on the Government, since those of us who knew about what was going on at the FAO had no belief that the Government would succeed in their multilateral approach, desirable though it was.

I believe that the Government were right to play it slowly and make every effort to get an agreement, notwithstanding the great pressure from the conservation world, which will greatly welcome this step to implement protective measures at this stage. I think that the reaction of the Argentine to the Government's efforts is very depressing indeed. I do not know whether the noble Baroness would agree, but there is still the danger of a cod war with unfortunate international implications in view of the attitude of the Soviet Union and the establishment of a fishing base in the Argentine, and the Soviet Union's indifference to our complaints about the agreement they had entered into, in our opinion illegally, with regard to fisheries in that area.

Would the noble Baroness also accept—and I speak as somebody who was until recently chairman of the East European Trade Council—that I have no doubt that East European countries, and particularly the Poles, are only too eager to have a sensible regime, which this envisages? I also congratulate the noble Baroness on the fact that the Government have achieved this, so far as I can tell, with no cost at all to the British taxpayer. I just hope that the Falkland Islands will get some benefit financially from this.

Finally, may I ask the noble Baroness—and again I say this in the warmest and most congratulatory way—whether we shall have to wait another four years before we put fishing limits around South Georgia? This is also an area that we recommend should be protected in this way. South of the Antarctic convergence in particular is in danger of very heavy fishing.

Baroness Young: My Lords, I should like to thank the noble Lord, Lord Shackleton, for his warm welcome of the Statement, It is even more welcome because, as we know, he recommended such a zone in his report published in 1982, and no one has been a stronger advocate of it. I am glad too that he believes that it has been the right policy to play it slowly. We have tried hard to achieve a multilateral regime. I am particularly pleased to hear from him that conservationists will welcome this, because it is such an important part of the argument.

The noble Lord asked me about the reaction of the Argentine Government. Of course, one does not know. They have been informed of this decision, and we hope that they too will see the argument about conservation. As I indicated in my reply to the noble Lord, Lord Cledwyn, we believe that the fact of the Brazilian proposal at the United Nations on a zone of peace should make people think carefully about settling any differences other than peacefully, and we are pleased that we were able to support this proposal as well as Argentina.

I was interested in what the noble Lord said about Eastern Europe. We hope that if the Polish ships wish to continue to fish there they will apply for licences. So far as concerns the cost of the scheme, of course it will be run by the Falkland Islands government, who will issue the licences and will therefore collect the revenue. That will depend on the number of licences issued and how the cost works out. They clearly will need to look at this carefully, and I would not in any way want to overestimate the amount of revenue that might be achieved for the Falkland Islands government. What is most important is that the fishery should survive in the conservation area.

So far as concerns the water around South Georgia, the fishery is subject to existing international agreement—that is, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. We continue to regard this agreement as having the potential to develop into a truly effective conservation regime. We shall continue to work with other like-minded commission members at next year's meeting, which takes place in October 1987. So far, the CCAMLR has introduced a ban on all commercial fishing within 12 nautical miles of South Georgia.

Lord Shackleton: My Lords, before the noble Baroness leaves that point, the agreement to which she referred is still not a very successful one. I hope therefore that she will agree that at the next meeting of

SIA/LONDRES

the Antarctic treaty powers (or the SCAR meeting) they will press strongly for more action; but there will still be the problem of enforceability.

Baroness Young: My Lords, I shall certainly note the important point that the noble Lord has made.

Viscount Mersey: My Lords, I wonder whether my noble friend could clear up a small point which is bothering me. She said the conservation zone was to be of the same radius as the protection zone. When I was last in the Falklands, in July, the protection zone was only about 150 miles, whereas the conservation zone is to be 200 miles. Therefore, will the protection zone—or FIPZ, which I think is its exact name, have to be extended?

Baroness Young: No, my Lords. The interim conservation zone is co-terminous with the Falkland Islands Protection Zone. We have claimed up to 200 miles but the actual area that will be licensed and will be patrolled will be of 150 miles radius. This is because most of the fishing is done within 150 miles radius and because it is coterminous with the Falkland Islands Protection Zone.

HANSARD LORES
29 OCTUBRE '86
Vol 481 Nro 159
Columnas 739-745

DECLARACION ZONA PESCA MALVINAS

Transcribo noticieros y entrevistas por T.V. de tarde y noche ayer 29.

NOTA: Diversos conceptos fueron ya anticipados ayer 29. Merece observarse en ultima pagina, correspondiente a "Newsnight", que cronista comenta se procuraria a partir febrero proximo descontinuar practica de tripulacion argentina en embarcaciones sovieticas, que fue precisamente un error de concepto de la Baronesa Young al aceptarlo como no trascendente en debate acuerdo remitido esta misma via.

1. NOTICIERO DE LAS 5.45 EN CANAL 3

"Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has told MPs that Britain is setting up a 150 mile fishing zone around the Falklands. He said there was wide spread concern over a rapid increase in fishing in the South-West Atlantic and its impact on stocks, and he said there had been no agreement with Argentina to cut it back. But the Shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey said the "Government was becoming embeded still deeper in the quagmire of its committment to the Falklands".

2. NOTICIERO DE LAS 6 DE LA TARDE EN BBC1

Britain is to take action against countries which had been fishing the waters of the Falkland Islands, The Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Commons this afternoon that a special 150 miles zone is being declared around the islands and Britain will say who can and who can't fish inside it. Sir Geoffrey said, if necessary Britain will use force to police the zone. The countries most affected will be from Eastern Europe and the far east. They send huge fishing fleets to the South Atlantic. But as our diplomatic editor John Simpson reports, the move is also likely to irritate the Argentines.

JOHN SIMPSON:

Since the end of the Falklands War Britain has tried to get an agreement on fishing rights around the islands with Argentina and the countries which fish there. Up to now we rejected the idea of imposing the fishing zone hoping to get an agreed solution. Now the Government has decided that the fishing has become so heavy, it's got to do something about it. The wildlife on the islands is threatened and the shortage of food in the sea and the forecast of how long the fish stocks will last have become alarming. But there are new prospects of political confrontation with Argentina which refuses to recognize Britain's right to impose any zone of control. I asked Sir Geoffrey Howe if his announcement was a sign of Britain's impatience with the situation.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE:

No. It's precisely the opposite I think. I am astonished by the massive patience we have displayed in trying to arrive to a sensible arrangement by agreement with Argentina. But they have got an obsessive preocupation with sovereignty, sovereignty, sovereignty with the exclusion of everything else. They are unwilling even to allow the bodies of those who died in the war to return to their native land. They regard their continued presence in the Falkland Islands as evidence of Argentinian sovereignty.

JOHN SIMPSON:

Behind the fishery protection vessels which will be in place by February 1st will be the continuing British Naval and Military presence on the Falklands. Labour's spokesman Denis Healey believes it puts Britain's deeper into what he calls the "quagmire of the Falklands committment".

DENIS HEALEY:

One of the risks is that you could get some nasty incidents. Our fishing zone overlaps with the Argentine one in one important section of the South Atlantic and the risk of a new fish war with maybe us using aircraft or sea borne forces against the Soviet civilian fishing fleet can't be excluded. It's a very risky and dangerous game.

JOHN SIMPSON:

What it will do certainly is to bring the Falklands back into the forefront of public attention during the next few months. Four years and more after the Argentine invasion of the islands the quarrel refuses to go away".

3. CANAL 4 TV noticiero de las 7

PRESENTER:

"There is to be a Falklands fishing zone. Healey says it gets Britain in deeper and deeper.

The Government has unilaterally imposed an exclusive fishing zone of 200 hundred miles around the Falkland Islands. With that and more of the day' news here again is Nicholas Owen.

NICHOLAS OWEN:

The Government imposed 100 mile fishing limit around the Falkland Islands and is setting 150 miles conservation zone. The Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said the decision had been taken because of what he called Argentina's agressive patrolling of waters within 200 miles of the Falklands coast. But Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman, Denis Healey said the Government was becoming embeded still deeper in what he called the quagmire of his commitments to the Falklands.

In two years the number of trawlers fishing the rich waters of the Falklands has trebbled hoovering up enormous stocks of squid, hake and blue-whiting. British hopes of voluntary restraint by boats from a dozen nations has failed. The Japanese being the worse culprits, Britain acted urgentely because efforts by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome to draught a multilateral management regime had bogged down by non co-operation from several nations. To preserve stocks there'll be a 150 mile conservation zone and a 200 miles fishing limit. It's no accident the 150 miles zone coincides with the military protection zone which as the Foreign Secretary said today, "leave open the use of armed forces to police the fleets". Although the plan is to use two new civilian fishery protection vessels manned by Falklanders and a new civilian aircraft all of them like those used off Britain at the moment and to be bought eventually by the Falklands Government. Britain blames Argentina for undermining international efforts to bring order to the fishing grounds, first by firing on two trawlers recently, secondly by signing two big deals with the Soviet block to fish off Argentina and thereby challenge British sovereignty of the Falklands. Britain says todays measurements are interim pending an international agreement but Labour's opposition say the "measures will reduce still further the already tiny international support for Britain's Falklands policy".

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4. BBC1 Nine O'Clock News.

"JOHN HUMPHREYS (periodista)

Britain sets limits for150 miles fishing around the Falklands. Argentina objects.

JULIA SOMMERVILLE (periodista^:

The new exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands. It'll extend 150 miles out into the Atlantic, Foreing Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told MPs it was needed because the waters around the islands were in danger of being overfished by Argentina (sic) and the Soviet Union. Tonight there was an angry response from the Argentine Government of President Raul Alfonsin. A spokesman said it was an affront to Argentine sovereignty in the area of

the disputed islands. Britain had declared an exclusion zone around the islands during the war with Argentina in 1982.

JOHN SIMPSON:

Almost as soon as the Falklands war was over and it was safe to approach the waters round the islands the big factory ships from Japan, Taiwan, Eastern Europe and so on moved in on the rich fishing grounds that surround them; ships that can stay there for months at a time hoovering up the fish. Some of the Falklands wildlife is threatened by the shortage of food in the sea and the forecast of how long the fish stocks will last are alarming. Until now Britain has rejected the imposition of a fishing zone and has tried to get an internationally agreed solution, but the continuing argument with Argentina about who owns the Falklands has made one impossible.

I asked Sir Geoffrey Howe if his announcement was a sign of Britain's impatience with the situation.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE:

No. It's precisely the opposite I think. I am astonished by the massive patience we have displayed in trying to arrive to a sensible arrangement by agreement with Argentina. But they have got an obsessive preocupation with sovereignty, sovereignty, sovereignty with the exclusion of everything else. They are unwilling even to allow the bodies of those who died in the war to return to their native land. They regard their continued presence in the Falkland Islands as evidence of Argentinian sovereignty.

JOHN SIMPSON:

Tonight the Argentine President Dr. Raúl Alfonsín has rejected Sir Geoffrey's move precisely on the grounds that it harms Argentine sovereignty. Dr. Alfonsín was a corageous critic of the Argentine military and their decision to invade the Falklands in 1982 but that hasn't stopped him maintaining the Argentine claim to the islands. In july he took the step of signing fishing treaties with the Russians and Bulgarians which undoubtedly made things more difficult. Tonight Dr. Alfonsin made it clear that Argentina would oppose the British fishing zone with all the peaceful means it could, even so Labour's spokesman Denis Healy says today's announcement put Britain deeper into what he calls "the quagmire of the Falklands committent".

DENIS HEALEY:

One of the risks is that you could get some nasty incidents. Our fishing zone overlaps with the Argentine one in one important section of the South Atlantic and the risk of a new fish war with maybe us using aircraft or sea borne forces against the Soviet civilian fishing fleet can't be excluded. It's a very risky and dangerous game.

JOHN SIMPSON:

Civilian fishery protection vessels will be in place by February 1st when the zone comes into force. Behind them will be the continuing British Naval and Military presence. The Falklands will be making a come back into public attention over the next months".

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5. NEWS AT TEN (Canal 3) INDEPENDENT TELEVISION

"ALAISTAR BURNETT (periodista):

Argentina is told to steer clear of the Falklands.

SANDY GALL (periodista):

The Government has imposed a 150 mile fishing limit around the Falkland Islands to preserve fishing stock. The Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told Parliament Britain was prepared to use armed force to protect the new zone which comes into effect next February. The new limit was categorically rejected by Argentina as provocative.

What is beyond dispute is that fish stocks around the Falklands are being literally vacuumed up in massive quantities. This a typical factory ship from Poland picking up the catch from smaller trawlers. In 1984, 250 trawlers fished here. This year already some 600. Many fishing nations have taken advantage of the disputed sovereignty in the South Atlantic. The main offenders according to the British, trawlers from Poland, more trawlers from the Soviet Union, squid fishermen from Japan and from almost as far as South Korea. All have fished with impunity inside Britain's military protection zone. But from next February the fishery conservation zone will be imposed almost covering the same area. These trawlers will then have to apply for licences to enter and will have to stick to quotas. Civilian spotter planes and protection vessels will impose the limit but what if trawlers refuse to obey them?

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE:

It is, of course, opened to Her Majesty's Government to use armed forces in the appropiate circumstances in the waters around the Falkland Islands or in the waters round elsewhere.

OTRO PERIODISTA:

If Sir Geoffrey's action works income for the Falklands fishing fees could reach £20m a year. But the Eastern block at least regard this fishing grounds as fair game. Russia and Bulgaria have signed unilateral fishing agreements with Argentina in waters patrolled by the British. Logically the British could

waters patrolled by the British. Logically the British could find themselves having to fire shots accross Soviet bows, but the Foreign Office doubt it will come to that. Despite praise for today's move from conservationists the government's problem is that international support for Britain's right to legislate at all in the South Atlantic is continuing to fade".

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6. "Newsnight", BBC 2.

Periodista:

"Argentina has reacted angrily to Britain's new 150 mile fishing conservation zone around the islands and has said it will oppose the measure with all the peaceful means it can. And the political and economic crisis in the Argentinian government has reacted angrily to the news that Britain is imposing a 150 miles fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands next February. The move means that all fishing vessels inside the zone will have to be licensed. The Shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey said the "Government was embeding itself deeper in the quagmire of Falklands committment".

"At present Argentinian vessels aren't allowed inside the 150 miles military zone set up during the Falklands conflict. However several other countries including Japan and the Soviet Union fish these waters extensively. Some of them restrict their catches under a voluntary agreement but now the Falkland Islands government said that that is not working and many species, including squid, are being over fished. With these in mind the British Government has decided to implement the new conservation zone and they insist Argentina hasn't helped the situation.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE:

We've been trying for the last eighteen months to agree arrangements to control fishing in the South Atlantic. Again we got a negative response. I am afraid their attitude seems to be preocupied with the obsesion of the question of sovereignty. That's sad. They have to live with it.

It seems the Foreign Office have also been annoyed by an agreement that Argentina made with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria this is believed to allow Argentina a share of catches made in Falklands waters. Also allegations that Russian vessels are being crewed by Argentinians and that's a practice which the Foreign Office hopes to stop when the new zone comes in to force in February. The problem now for the Falkland islanders is how they'll police the 17,000 square mile area with one aeroplane and two boats. The Government has made clear that British forces could be used is a fishing war breaks out".

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Juan Eduardo Fleming
Ministro

FIN TRANSMISION

Falkland war fear over fish

BRITAIN is prepared to fight a new "cod war" to protect Falkland fishing grounds.

Sir Geoffrey Howe announced a 150-mile licensed zone round the islands yesterday.

It means that from February, foreign fishing fleets will have to pay and stick to quotas.

The Foreign Secretary told the Commons: "It is, of course, open to the Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances."

Sir Geoffrey said the Government had been forced to act because Argentina had negotiated fishing agreements with Russia and Bulgaria but had declined to talk with Britain.

He said the Argentines were aggressively patrolling the South Atlantic within 200 miles of the Falklands.

He said the Falkland Islands Government would use two protection boats and one light aircraft to police the new zone.

● Argentina immediately rejected the zone, saying the government would "sustain its inalienable rights."

STAR 30 OCT 86 pag 8

FIN TRANSMISION

D

UK to create fishing zone around Falklands

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER, JIMMY BURNS AND IVOR OWEN

BRITAIN yesterday announced that it was to set up a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands. This could lead to a flare-up of the dispute with Argentina about sovereignty over the islands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons that all vessels fishing within the area would need a licence from February 1, 1987, when legislation to be introduced by the Falklands Government would take effect.

The government of the archipelago is to use its own two fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft to police the zone. But Sir Geoffrey made clear that, if necessary, that the UK government would not hesitate to use British forces in the area "to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone."

The chief spokesman for President Raul Alfonsin of Argentine denounced the measure as "a new act of provocation." Mr Alfonsin called an immediate meeting with Mr Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, and defence chiefs.

The British government also came under attack from the Labour Party. Mr George Foulkes, foreign affairs spokesman in the Commons, called the move "an extremely provocative decision."

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, said the government was becoming embedded "still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

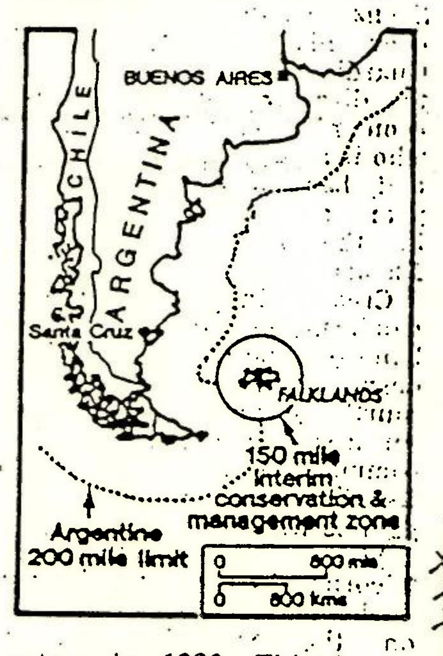
The new Interim Conservation and Management Zone is to cover essentially the same area as the existing Falkland Islands Protection Zone, from which all Argentine vessels without permission are excluded.

Sir Geoffrey made clear, however, that Britain could claim under international law, a fisheries limit of 200 miles, subject to delimitation with Argentina.

"We are also confirming our rights to jurisdiction over the continental shelf, up to the limits prescribed by the rules of international law," he said.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised that the reason for the government's decision was the concern at the rapid increase in fishing in the south-western Atlantic.

According to figures released by the Foreign Office, about 600 trawlers of various nationalities — most of them from the Soviet Union and other eastern European countries, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — fished in Falklands



waters in 1986. This is compared with 485 in 1985 and only 250 in 1984.

The aim is to reduce the number of trawlers to about 200 for the fishing seas January to June 1987.

Sir Geoffrey stressed th government had always sidered the problem shou solved by international ment. A study was undei at the UN Food and Ag tural Organisation in 1985, through a British ir tive.

Sir Geoffrey accused A tina of having undermined approach. It had embarke "aggressive patrolling than 200 miles from its sout region of Patagonia and w 200 miles of the Falkland

Even more important A tina had concluded bila fisheries agreements with Soviet Union and Bulg through which it purported exercise jurisdiction that i a matter of international the entitlement of the Falk Islands."

These agreements were inc patible with the multilat initiative, Sir Geoffrey m tained. However, Bri remained ready to work international arrangement he had suggested to Argentine Foreign Minis that they should review Britain and Argentina co-operate on fish conservat in the region.

Mr Foulkes had said that British action raised " horrific spectre of a cl between British and Sov ships in the South Atlanti but officials stressed that Foreign Secretary had be given certain assurances on subject by Moscow. The Forei Office believes that the Sov Union would not want to p voke incidents as the result the decision.

FINANCIAL TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 1

Britain and Argentina fish for trouble in the South Atlantic

BY JIMMY BURNS

JUST FIVE MONTHS ago the announcement that Argentina had agreed to join Britain in talks aimed at establishing multilateral fishing agreements governing the Falklands appeared to signal not just a boost for conservation but also a considerable thaw in an otherwise icy diplomatic climate.

Yesterday's announcement by Britain unilaterally establishing a Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone runs the risk not only of not saving more fish but of also chilling the diplomatic climate again on the whole Falklands issue.

Behind the multilateral approach spearheaded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) was the realisation that combination of a lack of regulation and overfishing in recent years had considerably depleted fishing stocks in the South Atlantic, endangering the survival of the Falkland's single most important natural resource.

Within the 150 mile protection zone set up following the war by Britain around the islands the number of trawlers, mainly from Eastern European countries, had increased from 250 in 1984 to 600 in 1986, with a total catch valued at over £50m a year.

Feasibility studies prepared for the FAO by Britain's Imperial Centre for Environmental Technology (known as the Beddington report) and by Argentina's National Institute of Maritime Investigation (Inidep) this year agreed that the future of three principal species being fished in the region was at stake: the common hake, caught almost exclusively by Argentine trawlers within Argentina's exclusive economic zone well to the North of the Falklands; blue whiting, caught mostly by Polish and Soviet factory ships within the Falklands zone; and squid caught mainly by Japanese, South Korean, and Polish trawlers both within and outside the Falklands zone and by Argentine trawlers in the north.

Both the Beddington and Argentine reports coincide in their assessments that the blue whiting is now being seriously overfished. It is a low-valued species but is caught mainly by the Polish fleet for converting into fishmeal.

However, Argentina's recent bilateral fishing agreement with the Soviet Union, which drew an angry diplomatic response from the UK, failed to satisfy the conservationists. The Soviet Union is committed to expanding its own livestock production and Polish fishmeal will be an important element in these plans. Moreover, the agreement only limits one catch for the first year to 208,000 tonnes, which is above the existing levels of Soviet and Bulgarian catches in the South Atlantic.

Yesterday's agreement, however, is unlikely to lead to any major improvements in stocks in the short-term. The British navy has already shown itself unable to police wit[h] total success the *military* exclu[sion] zone. By superimposing a fishing zone on the military zone without increasing substantially its naval presence in the area Britain risks the same slippage in control on conservation.

What yesterday's declaration is bound to do, however, is to aggravate the sovereignty issue. It will initially exclude Argentine trawlers from practically all the best fishing grounds in the South Atlantic at a time when the Argentine Government is under pressure to reconcile its ecological concerns with the need to boost the domestic fishing industry and assuage entrenched nationalist feelings.

Significantly the Inidep report extends its analysis to include a reference to the potential of the Argentine fishing fleet and what it alleges was the effectiveness of Argentine regulation prior to the 1982 Falklands War. Inidep implicitly reaffirms Argentina's claim to the Falklands and its surrounding sea, and the country's readiness to exercise effective policing over the entire area.

In recent months Argentina has intercepted a growing number of foreign boats operating in the South Atlantic. Britain, on the other hand, has come under intense pressure from the Falkland Islanders—who are seeking licensing revenue as well as conservation—to impose a territorial fishing zone. The scene seems set for diplomatic rough seas—and possibly even for gunboat diplomacy.

FINANCIAL TIMES 30OCT86 pag 36

Falklands initiative put down to lack of Argentine co-operation

BY IVOR OWEN

BRITAIN'S decision unilaterally to impose a fisheries conservation area around the Falkland Islands over a radius of 150 miles was the result of Argentina's actions in undermining attempts to achieve a multilateral agreement, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons last night.

Most Conservative backbenchers made clear their support for his insistence that the increasing activities of Soviet and Bulgarian trawlers in the south Atlantic following the conclusion of the bilateral agrements with Argentina had obliged the Government to assert its jurisdiction over the fishing rights in the area concerned.

Sir Geoffrey flatly rejected the view of Mr Denis Healey, Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary, that the unilateral imposition of the conservation area would "embed the Government still further in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

When pressed by Mr George Foulkes, another Labour front bench spokesman on foreign affairs, to say what would happen if the Soviet fishing fleet moved into the new zone he replied that there had been indications that Soviet vessels would conduct themselves in a fashion "not inconsistent with British claims in the area."

Sir Geoffrey had some difficulty in convincing several Tory backbenchers, including Mr Keith Speed, about the adequacy of the arrangements for policing the new conservation zone.

For most of its circumference the conservation area will be co-extensive with the protection zone established after the Falkland Islands were recaptured from the Argentinians in 1982.

The Foreign Secretary explained that from February 1 1987 fishing within the conservation zone would be licensed by the Falklands Islands Government. The licensing would reflect conservation needs.

The Falkland Islands Government, he said, would use its own civilian fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft. Revenue and costs would be for the Falkland Islands Government.

Sir Geoffrey stressed: "Our forces stationed at the Falklands will continue to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone."

Sir Geoffrey said actions taken by Argentina which had undermined hopes of securing collaborative arrangements to deal with the widespread concern over fish stocks in the area had included:

- Aggressive patrolling more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands.
- Unlawful use of force by Argentina, leading in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel.

Sir Geoffrey stated: "In sum, the Argentine Government's recent actions show an indifference to conservation needs and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation."

He reaffirmed that the Government remained ready to work for a multilateral arrangement "which would still be our preference, just as soon as that can be achieved."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, agreed that in terms of fishing grounds and fishing stocks alone the Government was fully justified in establishing the new conservation zone and described the 150-mile area as "prudent."

FINANCIAL TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 12

Argentina accused

Falklands fishing zone set by Howe

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, last night accused Argentina of aggression and obstruction, and announced the unilateral imposition of a strict 150-mile fishing zone around the Falklands.

In a move that will clearly worsen Anglo-Argentine relations, he told the Commons that while the Conservation and Management Zone was designed to stop serious overfishing by a number of countries, it had been caused mainly by Argentina.

The zone will be policed by two fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft, but Sir Geoffrey stressed that "the resources of the garrison remain available to deter Argentine aggression and maintain the integrity of the protection zone".

The extent of the zone has been carefully set so that it does not intrude into waters that Argentina can claim fall within its 200-mile limit. But Sir Geoffrey also emphasized the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to its own 200-mile limit.

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, claimed Sir Geoffrey's statement had embedded the Government "still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment" and would make negotiations with the Argentinians more difficult.

But Sir Geoffrey claimed that the move had been made necessary by Argentinian intransigence in the face of heavy overfishing. Foreign boats fishing mainly for squid in Falklands waters had increased from 250 in 1984 to 600 this year.

He said that Britain had hoped for a voluntary agreement and had initiated a study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in March, 1985.

Parliament 4
Falklands welcome 10

But that study had been delayed by unco-operative fishing nations, while Argentina had embarked on an entirely different course.

It had patrolled aggressively within 200 miles of the Falklands, used force and on one occasion sunk a vessel, and signed fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria extending into the 200-mile Falklands waters.

The Government had decided to establish the conservation zone from February 1 next year.

TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 1

Cabinet reported split in Buenos Aires

From Eduardo Cue, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin unexpectedly cancelled a television address to the nation last night in which he had been expected to announce Argentina's response to the exclusion zone established by Britain.

There was no official explanation as to why the presidential speech had been cancelled, but informed sources said that the Cabinet was split on how best to handle the matter.

In mid-evening the Government released a communiqué signed by President Alfonsín stating that the Government "does not accept the arbitrary pretension of the United Kingdom to exert powers that belong to Argentina and to subtract from the national patrimony territory and resources that belong to it."

The brief communiqué appeared relatively mild in tone given the emotionalism that the Falklands issue raises here.

Until last night's statement, official reaction had been limited to a brief comment by the presidential spokesman, Señor José Ignacio López, who said Argentina would raise the issue in all international forums.

TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 1

Argentines 'still resist overtures'

The Argentine Government still showed no willingness to respond to the many initiatives Britain had taken to achieve more normal relations with that country, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

Mr Robert Edwards (Wolverhampton South East, Lab) described the Foreign Secretary's approach as "sad". It was vital that some encouragement be given to the new, democratic Government in the Argentine.

"If we can maintain diplomatic relations with Spain, who have a claim on Gibraltar, there should be no difficulty now there is democratic Government in Argentina in restoring diplomatic relations with them."

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that Argentina had shown no willingness to recognize the rights of the Falkland Islanders to have their own wishes respected.

"All the initiatives we have taken towards restoring normal relations have been rebutted by the Argentine Government."

For instance, Britain had abolished financial restrictions, but Argentina had done it only to a limited extent.

Britain had proposed resumption of air links, without response.

Both Britain and Spain were members of the EEC and of the Nato alliance. Britain was still a country against which Argentina had launched an armed assault four years ago.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C) said he had spent two weeks in Buenos Aires and did not think public opinion there was in any way anti-British.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said there was no doubt a great deal in that. Britain had initiated measure after measure to start normalizing relations but the Argentine Government repeatedly made clear that it wished to start discussions only on sovereignty.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said that if the financial terms were right the Falkland people would accept resettlement and, if not resettlement, certainly a change in sovereignty.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The whole House will have been astonished by the grisly spectacle of Mr Campbell-Savours speaking with such contempt on such a matter when we are trying to uphold the wishes of the Falklanders.

TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 4

Falklands given unilateral fishing cordon

FISHING

The Government has unilaterally established a 150-mile fishing zone around the coast of the Falkland Islands, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced in a statement to the Commons.

At the same time, he said, they were declaring the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to a fisheries limit of 200 miles, subject to delimitation with Argentina.

There had been a rapid increase in fishing in the south-west Atlantic and the serious impact on fish stocks had aroused widespread concern. Accordingly a study was launched at the Food and Agriculture Organization.

From the outset Britain took the view that the problem would best be solved on a collaborative basis. "In public", he went on, "and directly to the Argentine Government, I made clear our view that a solution without prejudice to our respective positions on sovereignty could and should be found."

Some fishing nations had not co-operated with the FAO study and its preparation had been delayed. Pending completion of the study, Britain took steps by voluntary means to reduce the impact of the fishing effort.

He continued: "Argentina has pursued a different course, and the actions have undermined the multilateral approach.

- Argentina has embarked on agressive patrolling more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands;
- Unlawful use of force by Argentina led in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel;
- Argentina has concluded bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria;
- Through these agreements Argentina purports to exercise jurisdiction that is a matter of international law the entitlement of the Falkland Islands;
- These agreements are incompatible with the multilateral initiative.

"In sum, the Argentine Government's recent actions show an indifference to conservation needs and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation.

Fishing within the conservation zone would be licensed by the Falklands Government

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the Foreign Secretary had made a very serious statement which embedded the Government still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment.

The announcement was bound to make negotiations with the Argentine more difficult and reduce still further the minuscule minority of governments in the United Nations which supported the British position on this issue.

The Foreign Secretary had just announced the unilateral imposition of a fishing zone around the Falklands, something which he told the House on March 14 last year was not justified. Then he drew attention to the practical and political problems of policing such a zone, a zone which comprised some 70,000 square miles of ocean in part overlapping the zone already established by Argentina.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said it was in face of the action by the Argentine Government that the British Government reached the conclusion that a unilateral regime must be imposed this time.

The Government remained ready and willing to achieve a multilateral regime as soon as that might be possible. There was no question of the Government embedding itself deeper in a quagmire.

It was exercising, as was necessary for the maintenance of British sovereignty and the preservation of fish stocks in the south Atlantic, the jurisdiction it was entitled to exercise.

Policing the zone would be undertaken by a surveillance aircraft and fisheries protection vessels of the Falkland Islands Government. It was open to the Government to use armed force in appropriate circumstances.

TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 4

Falklands welcomes fisheries protection

From Graham Bound
Port Stanley

The declaration of a 150-mile fisheries zone around the Falklands has been welcomed enthusiastically here although some have said that they would prefer a larger area.

Mr John Cheek, a Port Stanley Councillor, said yesterday: "We are doing something we should have done a long time ago. We are claiming our rights. Obviously we are very happy."

"I expect a lot of diplomatic hot air from Argentina," he said, "but little more."

Although the new fisheries zone will be patrolled by two unarmed ships and a surveillance aircraft, naval vessels and aircraft will be called in if any foreign vessel chooses to defy their authority.

The Falklands Governor, Mr Gordon Jewkes, has played down the presence of the military, but did not deny that they have a role to play. "If our sovereignty is challenged then the military element could, and I stress could, step in," he said.

The unilateral declaration is of very real economic value in the Falklands, where British aid has been essential over the last few years to invigorate an economy flagging with failing international wool prices.

It is estimated that the sale of fishing licences, which will be fixed at an optimum number to avoid environmental damage, will raise around £6 million annually, of which £4 million will be spent on patrolling and administration.

TIMES 30 OCT 86 pag 10

Falklands fishing zone to be set up

By Colin Hughes and Isabel Hilton

IN AN ABRUPT shift in policy, the Government yesterday announced that it is to impose a 150-mile interim fishery conservation and management zone around the Falkland Islands. The zone will come into effect on 1 February 1987 when the new fishing season in the South Atlantic is due to commence.

Despite a huge increase in fishing by foreign vessels around the islands over the past three years, the Government had hoped to be able to protect the rich fishing grounds of the South Atlantic from over-exploitation by seeking a multilateral conservation and management regime through the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation.

However, announcing the decision in the Commons yesterday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, placed most of the blame for the failure to reach agreement on a multilateral regime on Argentina.

He said stocks were being severely depleted by overfishing, which had provoked widespread conservation concern. While the British Government had been seeking a collaborative agreement, the Argentines had started "agressive patrolling" of their own 200-mile zone, Sir Geoffrey told the Commons.

During the summer Argentine fishery vessels fired on a Japanese trawler, and sunk a Taiwanese trawler, killing one of its crew.

The Argentines had also undermined the attempt at a multilateral agreement by reaching bilateral fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, showing "an indifference to conservation needs, and a preference for obstruction rather than co-operation," Sir Geoffrey added.

Sir Geoffrey's announcement was immediately praised by the Falklands Islands Office in London. "We have been trying to get this since 1977," said Derek Ogden, the head of the office.

The islanders had feared that overfishing of squid, hake and blue whiting was rapidly destroying the islands' best natural resource.

This season more than 600 vessels, many of them from as far away as the Soviet Union, Japan and Spain, had been fishing around the islands compared with 250 in 1984.

The Falkland Islands government intends to limit the number of vessels permitted to fish within the 150-mile zone to around 200 next season.

It is hoped that as much as £20 million a year may be raised by charging a licence fee to fish in the new zone.

Last night the Buenos Aires government rejected the British move, saying it was a violation of Argentine sovereignty.

In the Commons Denis Healey, Opposition Foreign Affairs spokesman, accused the Foreign Secretary of embedding the British Government "still deeper in the quagmire of Falkland Islands commitment", making negotiations with the Argentines more difficult, and "reducing still further the miniscule minority of nations within the United Nations which support the British Government over the Falklands."

He questioned whether the Falklands' two fishery protection vessels and a light surveillance aircraft could use force in policing 70,000 square miles of sea, as the Government expects.

INDEPENDENT 30 OCT 86 pag 1

Howe ends Falkland fishing free-for-all

BRITAIN called a halt yesterday to the fishing free-for-all around the Falklands.

A 150-mile conservation zone is to be imposed, banning all trawlers without a licence.

The move, announced in the Commons by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, will plunge Anglo-Argentine relations back into a cold war climate.

By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent

Economically it will be a severe blow to Russia and other communist countries who have been scooping up huge catches worth over £250 million a year.

Politically it could take the Falkland Islands to the brink of a fish war, since Argentina claims sovereignty over the waters—and used recent fishing deals with Russia and Bulgaria to endorse the claim.

The Royal Navy will not become involved in fishery patrols when the zone comes into effect in February, the start of the new season.

How to fend off any challenge is a major headache being left to the islanders, who will have one surveillance aircraft and two protection vessels to patrol the vast area.

In return they will be able to earn up to £6 million a year from licences for restricted fishing in the zone, famous for blue whiting and squid.

Two years ago foreign fishing vessels in the area numbered 250. More than 600 were spotted in the past season.

Britain had hoped to work out a conservation system by international agreement through the Food and Agricultural Organisation, but Buenos Aires stayed aloof.

Sir Geoffrey said Argentina had embarked upon 'aggressive patrolling' within 200 miles of the Falklands and opened fire on Japanese and Taiwanese vessels.

He assured the islanders: 'Our Forces will continue to deter Argentine aggression.'

D. MAIL 30 OCT 86 pag 10

FISH WAR THREAT TO THE FALKLANDS

BRITAIN is risking a "Squid war" with a 150 mile fishing zone around the Falklands.

The crackdown on Russian and other foreign fleets, which will be backed by Navy warships, follows fears of serious over-fishing of squid

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Commons that from February all fishing in the area will be licenced.

Sir Geoffrey said: "It is, of course, open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances."

But Shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey said the move sank Britain "still deeper into the quagmire of the Falklands commitment." He accused Sir Geoffrey of dumping policing responsibilities on the islanders—"who are half the population of the average UK parish."

MIRROR 30 OCT 86 page 2

Britain warns Argentina

By ROBERT GIBSON Political Correspondent

BRITAIN is prepared to use the armed forces against Argentina to protect the Falkland Islanders' fishing rights.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe made this clear yesterday when he announced a 150-mile exclusion zone for foreign trawlers from next February.

Having won the Falklands war Britain is not prepared to lose the peace by allowing the fishing riches to be pillaged.

Sir Geoffrey told MPs: "It is of course open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed force in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falkland Islands."

Argentina's "aggressive patrolling" of waters within 200 miles of the Falklands had forced the Government to take action.

"Unlawful use of force by Argentina led in one case to loss of life and the sinking of a vessel," said Sir Geoffrey.

Argentina had also agreed fishing deals with Russia and Bulgaria that had forced the Government's hand.

Britain is entitled to declare a 200-mile limit but the 150-mile zone includes the two main fishing areas and means a saving on men and resources.

Labour Foreign Affairs spokesman George Foulkes said it was a "provocative decision" that "opens up the horrific spectre of a clash between British and Soviet ships in the South Atlantic."

Fishing within the zone will be licensed by the Falkland Islands government and could push its revenue up to £20 million a year — six times the present figure.

● Sir Geoffrey Howe has accepted an invitation to visit Moscow next year.

D. EXPRESS 30 OCT 86 pag 2

Falklands limit

FOREIGN Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe announced a 150-mile licensed fishing zone around the Falkland Islands from February 1 and plans for an international 200-mile limit to conserve stocks.

TODAY 30 OCT 86 pag 2

Argentina suspends draftees' leave in new Falklands row

From JOHN REICHERTZ in Buenos Aires, Thursday.

ARGENTINA suspended leave for conscripted servicemen today in an angry reaction to Britain's planned imposition of a fishing conservation zone around the disputed Falklands islands.

The Soviet Union charged that the British move would only hinder the search for an British-Argentine solution to the impasse which drew the two countries into war four years ago.

However, in London a senior official said Britain had received assurances from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that the Kremlin did not want to cause trouble in the South Atlantic region.

Argentine Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena told a news conference in Buenos Aires that a military advisory committee had been convened to handle the situation created by Britain's unilateral imposition of the 150-mile zone from next February.

"We do not in any sense want to be dragged into a conflict," Jaunarena said, adding that Argentina's ne measures were normal for any nation reacting to aggression.

He said the military committee would consist of President Raul Alfonsin, chiefs of staff of the three armed forces, the head of the joint chiefs of staff, and the defence minister.

Asked about the Argentine action, A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "I wouldn't read too much into that." He added that no formal diplomatic response from Buenos Aires had been received in London.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference: "We regret that Britain has taken unilateral steps that are in contradiction with decisions of the United Nations on the Malvinas (Falkland) islands question."

British officials said they were working on an understanding that the Russians and their East Bloc allies, who fish extensively in the region, would respect the new zone and either apply for licences or withdraw their fleets.

Diplomats in Moscow said the initial reaction there gave no indication whether the Soviet Union would agree to ask Britain for fishing licences, a move that would clearly upset Argentina.

At his Buenos Aires new s conference Mr Jaunarean was asked if Argentina was concerned about a possible clash between London and Moscow.

"This is so," he replied. "This is an element that creates tension in the area."

In July the Soviet Union and Bulgaria signed fishing accords with Argentina that are regarded in London as an attempt by Buenos Aires to usuro British sovereignty over the Falklands and their territorial waters.

In Brussels, European Community diplomats said Britain had requested talks on South Atlantic fishing with their executive body, the European Commission.

The diplomats said British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe wanted to discuss arrangements for fishing by EEC fleets when the conservation zone comes into force on February 1.

Sir Geoffrey denied that the Government was seeking and electoral bonus by creating the zone around the Falklands. The suggestion came from Labour's foreign affairs spokesman Mr George Foulkes, who said there was not only a danger of a clash with the Argentinians but also with Russian fishing vessels.

GLASGOW HERALD 31 OCT 86 pag 7

Trawling for trouble

The British government's decision to enforce a fishing zone of 150 miles round the Falklands is, so far as I can see, another example of the Prime Minister's tendency to do things on the international scene mainly because the Foreign Office advises her not to. At any rate, she has overriden two substantial objections — in part, no doubt for the stated reason of wishing to conserve South Atlantic fish stocks but partly, without question, for the pleasure of putting the Argies in their place.

The first doubt is whether Britain can make its fiat stick. The patrol vessels and aircraft we now have at our disposal in the South Atlantic are probably insufficient to police the extended beat of water and even less adequate to take on the consequences of having to warn off and, if necessary, arrest members of the Soviet and Bulgarian fishing fleets. There is likely to be a serious choice between humiliation or reinforcement, the latter at an expense and risk absurdly disproportionate to the importance of the issue at stake.

The second, and more serious, objection, however, is that the gesture will set back the slow process by which Argentine public opinion is coming to a reasonable view of its relations with the outside world in general, and Britain in particular. It is not easy to be aware of this factor at 6,000 miles distance, but in Buenos Aires, where I was last week, it sticks out a mile.

It is three years since I was last in Argentina. At that time, not long after the Falklands war, the generals were still in power. A lot has changed since then. The British visitor finds democracy, embodied in President Alfonsin's government, very firmly and even sedately in control. The armed forces are at a low ebb in every way, their leading generals in jail or disgraced, their defence budget cut, their political influence about to be further curtailed by statute. The once-mighty Peronist Party is split and painfully ineffective in opposition. Until this week, the Falklands issue had been well below the political horizon for a long time.

This outward tranquility is a relief after the miserable turmoil of the fairly recent past, but it is probably deceptive. Argentina is still an uneasy country, fearful of its history, anxious about its future. The economy, especially, remains a pretty awful mess after its roller-coaster experiences under Alfonsin. Inflation, which soared up to an annnual rate of 1,800 per cent at the end of his first year, had been brought down to a modest 36 per cent by this summer as a result of a savage stabilization programme imposed by the IMF, but it is now creeping up again towards 60 or 70 per cent.

The reasons are basically that the unions are still too powerful to be made to submit to serious incomes restraint for more than a very short time, and that a bloated and hopelessly inefficient public sector is fed by the most powerful vested interests of society. To be fair, these problems are direct legacies from Peron, but because Alfonsin has not felt able to do more than tinker with them yet, they continue to undermine all efforts to solve the overseas debt crisis in the short term or modernize the economy in the long.

The nervous nationalism that spreads from this obvious fact is pervasive. It raises, for example, the question of how disgruntled an army starved of proper funds may become, and how quickly it might return to power if hyper-inflation takes hold again. It raises the question of whether Argentina can ever catch up with its old rival, Brazil. Above all, it raises the problem of relations with the United States. Reality proclaims that Argentina is despera[te]ly dependent on the US for [its] economic future, but natio[nal] pride ordains that this can ne[ver] be acknowledged.

This is a potentially explos[ive] brew which Alfonsin is handl[ing] with considerable skill. In partic[u]lar, he is combining a realis[tic] move towards financial orthodo[xy] for the reassurance of the Ame[ri]can banks with well publiciz[ed] gestures of political non-alig[n]ment — a visit to Moscow, a trip [to] Havana — for the reassurance [of] his nationalists. He is obvious[ly] trying to cool things down and [is] playing for time in which to set h[is] economic house in order.

The Falklands question is n[ot] only made more difficult by th[is] perspective; it is itself a dangerou[s] complication on Alfonsin's ho[]rizon since it raises the emotiona[l] temperature whenever it appear[s]. So far as settling the issue i[s] concerned, Alfonsin has obviousl[y] decided that there will be n[o] serious negotiation — ie, dis[]cussion of the ultimate fate of th[e] islands — while Mrs Thatcher is i[n] Downing Street. Until she departs, therefore, there is no point in giving away anything that will draw attention to the issue and increase the general mischief potential of nationalists of right and left.

This calculation explains the apparently idiotic Argentine refusal to end the war formally or, for that matter, to enter multilateral negotiations on fisheries. In the longer term Alfonsin evidently hopes that a calm atmosphere will help settle the Falklands issue, and a Falklands settlement will reinforce the calm necessary for economic progress.

Mrs Thatcher might, of course, argue that the sovereignty of the Falklands ought to be forever non-negotiable and there is no reason why she should assist Alfonsin to solve any of his problems, long-term or short. But for anyone who believes that some eventual compromise is both desirable and possible, Alfonsin's problems merit consideration; the fact that the latest twist in the fisheries dispute will make them worse deserves more attention than it has had.

"DAVID WATT" TIMES 31 OCT 86 Pag 20

Argies' call to troops

ARGENTINA yesterday stopped the planned discharge of conscripts from its armed forces following Sir Geoffrey Howe's announcement of a 150-mile exclusion zone on fishing around the Falklands.

President Raul Alfonsin claimed Britain's action would cause serious tensions and conflicts, with consequences as yet unforeseeable.

The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed their "regret" at the move, while Tass news agency said it was "impudent."

SUN 31OCT86 pag 6 -

Angry Argentines stop leave for servicemen

By JOHN DICKIE
Diplomatic Correspondent

ARGENTINA suspended leave for conscript servicemen yesterday in an angry reaction to Britain's planned imposition of a fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands.

The Soviet Union said the British move would only hinder the search for an Anglo-Argentine solution to the impasse which led to war four years ago.

In London, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has snubbed Argentina's Foreign Minister by refusing to let him come to Britain.

Dr Dante Caputo was to have been part of a delegation of non-aligned foreign ministers which went to the Foreign Office last night to press Sir Geoffrey about economic sanctions against South Africa.

But the Foreign Secretary sent a clear signal to Buenos Aires that his presence in Britain was 'totally out of the question' while Argentina still refused to announce the formal end of hostilities after the Falklands War of 1982.

The Argentine Foreign Minister was left to huff and puff in Buenos Aires about Britain's 'warlike measures' in declaring the 150-mile conservation zone around the Falklands to keep all foreign trawlers out except those licensed to fish.

Labour's Foreign Affairs Spokesman Mr George Foulkes suggested that the Government was seeking an electoral bonus by creating the zone, which he said could cause a flare-up in the South Atlantic with Argentina and Russia.

On BBC radio Mr Foulkes said: 'I would not be surprised if Mrs Thatcher secretly would quite like something to happen prior to the next election.'

Sir Geoffrey dismissed the idea that the Government was seeking electoral advantage as 'an unworthy observation.' He said he thought there was 'not a very great probability' of any conflict with the Russians, and he hoped Argentina would see that the establishment of the zone was responsible.

The news of the zone was welcomed by the Falkland Islanders and conservation groups, all of whom have been worried by over-fishing.

D. MAIL 31OCT86 pag 10

Falklands applaud fishing zone move

JUBILANT Falkland Islanders yesterday welcomed the British Government's 150-mile fishing zone decision — and dismissed talk of a fish war.

Port Stanley councillor John Cheek said: "We expect little more than hot air from Argentina."

Islanders said the move would protect stocks and wildlife. And the sale of fishing licences, bringing in an estimated £6 million a year, would mean a financial boom.

D. EXPRESS 31 OCT 86 pag 2

THE FALKLANDS' reborn tourist industry was officially launched yesterday with five tour operators, a range of off-beat holidays—and a glossy brochure with a front page picture of a bull elephant seal guarding his harem.

The operators hope to appeal to wildlife lovers, hardy ramblers and people interested in recent military history. Officials hope that within three years up to 500 tourists a year could be annually making the 8,000-mile, 18 hour journey to the Falklands, although only 100 are expected in the first year.

The omens for the new industry seem good, given the early bookings experience of Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours.

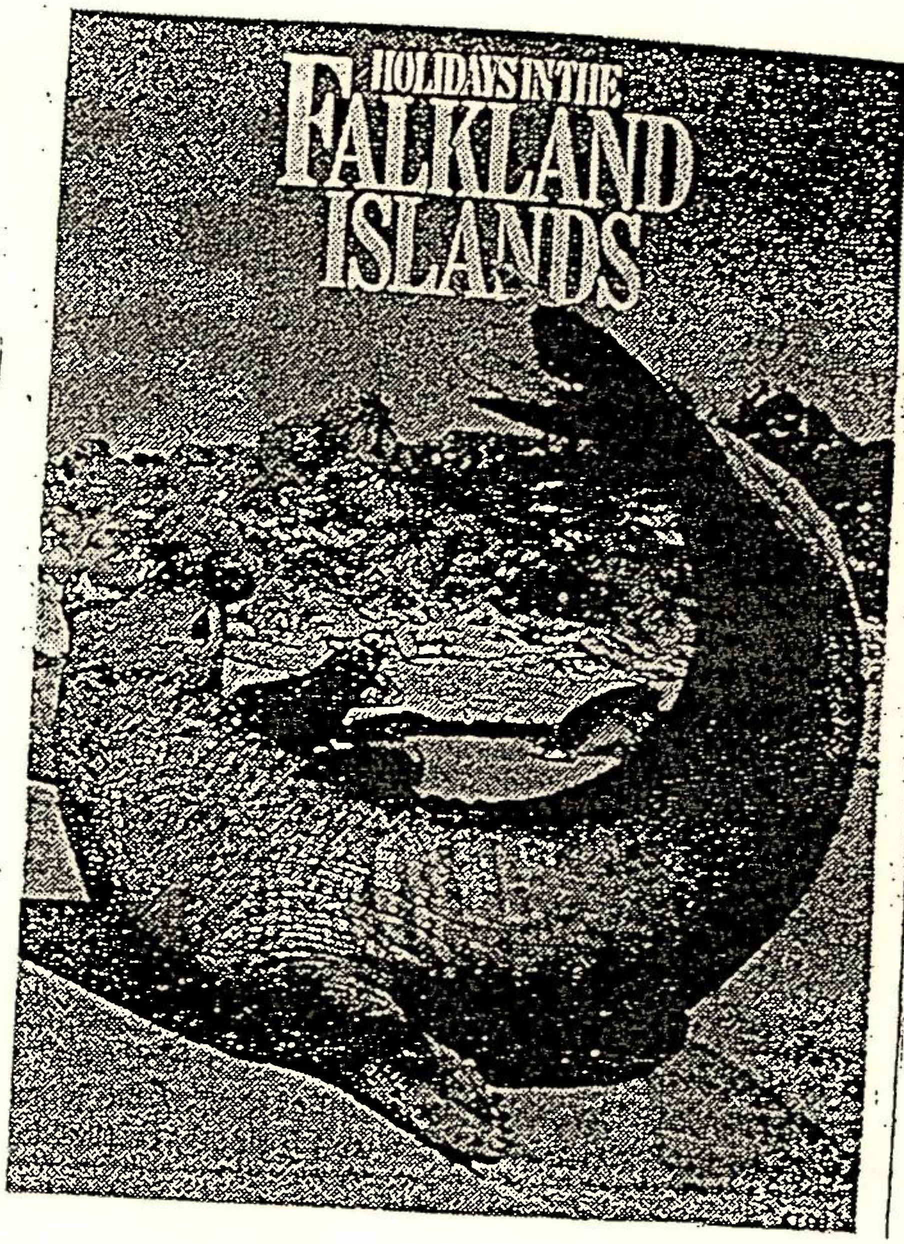
Its first 10-day expedition to the islands is already sold out. The 16 holidaymakers, including a solicitor, a computer firm owner and an accountant, are each paying £1,995 for the trip.

"None of them are relatives of soldiers who fought there during the war, or anything like that," said the firm's manager, Lt-Col Mike Martin. "I supposed patriotism comes into it, but bit different, isn't it, to be able to say at the golf club that you've seen the spot where Col Jones won his VC?"

Operators which have already prepared itineraries are all small, specialist companies, and some of them ran tours to the islands before the war interrupted business.

With only about 90 tourist bedrooms available on the islands, and because there are internal transport problems, officials want to develop the trade slowly. Three tourist lodges, each providing 10 beds, are nearing completion on three small outlying islands.

A brochure published yesterday by the newly formed Falklands Islands Tourism praises the "friendly, welcoming people, unbelievably rich wildlife and unique way of life". Wildlife lovers can observe sealions, penguins and unique birds as the flightless Steamer Duck.



D. TELEGRAPH 31 OCT 86 Pag 6

DAILY TELEGRAPH (P.20)
31 OCTUBRE 1986



'JUST GROWL OCCASIONALLY GEOFFREY – LET THEM KNOW WE'RE STILL AROUND...'

YORKSHIRE POST
THURSDAY OCTOBER 30 1986

Law of the sea

IF THERE *were* to be a clash between the British and the Soviet bloc fishing fleet in the Falklands conservation and licensed fishing zones, then it would be because the Soviets wanted it. For no matter what Mr. Denis Healey might think, international law is something that any British Government is entitled to uphold until such law is changed by international agreement. However strongly some people believe that Argentina ought to have sovereignty over the Falklands, the fact is that she has not yet got it, and has no right to act in defiance of international law as if she had.

The fishing agreements reached between Buenos Aires and the Russians and the Bulgarians were in part surely intended as much as anything else to assert Argentina's sovereignty over the Falklands and the surrounding waters. But in international law, Argentina was giving away what does not belong to her, and the Soviet Union and Bulgaria were knowingly accepting it. The provocation comes not from Britain but from Argentina. That strongly suggests that President Alfonsin does not think that Mr. Neil Kinnock's Labour-Marxist coalition party stands an earthly chance of winning the next General Election, because if he did he would be content to wait for the Falklands and the fishing zones to fall into his lap. But in the meantime, the Thatcher Government cannot afford to ignore what is happening.

In the Commons yesterday, Dr. David Owen acknowledged that the Government was right to do what it has done with regard to the fishing and conservation aspects, but suggested that an offer should be made to discuss taking the sovereignty issue to the United Nations Security Council. The issues, however, are separate. And gestures of appeasement would not satisfy Buenos Aires in any case. As Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, pointed out, the rapid increase in fishing in the South West Atlantic, with its serious impact on stocks, had aroused widespread concern. The British Government, he said, had given every support to international efforts to solve the problem, and had made it clear to the Argentine Government that a solution could be reached "without prejudice to our respective positions on sovereignty." The Argentines, however, had undermined the multilateral approach, and the bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria have emphasised that fact.

As a result of Argentina holding out against a multilateral solution to the fishing and conservation problems in the area, and acting unilaterally, Britain has been obliged to respond. The practicality of policing such a vast area might well be questioned, but similar problems apply in many fishing areas around the world, and no one suggests that because of that sovereign rights and responsibilities ought to be abandoned. There need be no trouble with the Soviet bloc and other foreign fishing fleets if they observe our quota and conservation rules as we observe theirs.

STANDARD, 30 Oct. 86, pag 20.

Argentina puts forces on alert

BUENOS AIRES, Thursday

ARGENTINA is today reported to have put its armed forces on the alert because of Britain's new 150-mile fishing limit around the Falklands.

A source quoted by the private news agency Noticias Argentinas said the forces were put on general alert and been suspended. The source discharges for conscripts had said no military actions were planned.

A statement issued after meetings between President Raul Alfonsin, his Cabinet and the military chiefs of staff accused Britain of "aggravating tensions and conflicts in the area and provoking new ones."

Britain says over-fishing and "aggressive patrolling" by Argentina had made the exclusion zone necessary.

Argentina accused Britain of using the conservation of fishing resources as a pretext to justify attempts to extend its dominion over new areas and resources.

An official source quoted by the news agency said President Alfonsin and his top military commanders discussed the defence of national security.

Jose Bordon, vice-president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, was reported to have said the Government should "seriously study what economic sanctions should be taken against British interests in Argentina." Other deputies backed his call.

Falklands fishery zone raises fears over Argentina

By STUART TROTTER
Political Correspondent

RELATIONS between Britain and Argentina reached their lowest point since the Falklands conflict yesterday when the Government announced a 150-mile fishery protection zone around the islands.

The decision raised fears among some MPs of armed confrontation with Argentina which claim the waters as part of its sovereign territory.

The Russians, who have a large trawler fleet in the South Atlantic, have signed a fishery agreement covering the same area with the Argentinians.

However, the Foreign Office is confident the Russians will not seek to enter the 150-mile zone without obtaining licences from the Falklands administration.

None the less, in the Commons, former Navy Minister Mr Keith Speed said the Royal Navy would be needed to give "visible back-up" to the two civilian fishery protection vessels and one light aircraft, which the Falklands administration will have at its disposal to police the area.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told MPs it was open to Britain "to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falklands Isles."

Navy vessels already patrol the 70,000 square miles of usually stormy ocean, mounting guard on the exclusion zone already declared by the Government for the protection of the Falklands.

The fishery protection zone will come into force on February 1 next year and thereafter all foreign boats wanting to fish within it will have to pay licence fees to the Falklands government.

Britain has also declared the islands' entitlement in international law to a 200-mile limit and jurisdiction over the continental shelf but is prepared to negotiate with Argentina on these.

Sir Geoffrey said the Government had offered Argentina a fisheries agreement without prejudice to either side's position on the sovereignty of the Falklands but had been obstructed.

The Argentine agreements with Russia and Bulgaria for fishing rights in Argentine waters which the Argentinians insist include those around the Falklands made the British Government decide to act.

At least one violent incident has already occurred over disputed sovereignty in the area. Last March an Argentine patrol boat sank a Taiwanese fishing vessel which refused to obey its orders. One Taiwanese sailor died in the incident.

Shadow Foreign Secretary Mr Denis Healey said the decision "embedded the Government still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

SDP leader Dr David Owen said the decision was fully justified on fishing conservation grounds but suggested Britain should offer to pool sovereignty over the Falklands with Argentina or transfer it to the UN Security Council.

Most Tory MPs backed the move enthusiastically. Sir Peter Blaker said they rejected Mr Healey's "surly and weak-kneed reaction."

The Falklands government has appealed to Britain to introduce such a zone since the end of the 1982 conflict to prevent over-fishing and provide it with valuable additional revenue from the licensees.

Foreign vessels — Russian, Polish, Japanese, Korean, Bulgarian, Spanish, and others — have flocked to the rich, unrestricted fishing grounds.

From about 25 boats in the 1984 fishing season the number of vessels has risen to 600 this year. The Government hopes that more distant water British vessels will now head there.

Labour MP Mr Eric Deakins said the decision could escalate into "another cod war." Mr Dennis Skinner suggested it was "a little bit of electioneering."

He told Sir Geoffrey: "You are giving the impression to the British people that we are going to take on the Argies again."

The Falklands government will be purchasing second-hand the two vessels and plane it needs for patrol duties.

GLASGOW HERALD
30 OCT 86 pag 3

Falklands dispute

THE last thing that the UK, or anyone else, needs is a Falklands fishing war. Fortunately nothing as dramatic as that is likely to result from the present dispute with Argentina—though the sinking of a Taiwanese trawler six months ago showed the potential nastiness of the situation. Probably, too, the Soviet Union will be reluctant to rock the boat though it has been given fishing rights by Argentina in the area covered by the extended British restrictions. Yet the action seems certain to provoke new diplomatic clashes between the UK and Argentina just at a time when they ought to be overcoming their differences and co-operating in areas of mutual interest.

The position, of course, could not have been left as it was. The Government has not until now been notably vigilant in protecting the rich marine resources of the South Atlantic. It has been much more enthusiastic about fortifying the Falklands than protecting the fishing stocks on which the livelihood of the islanders depends. The problem, moreover, has an international dimension, since fleets from many countries are systematically depleting stocks to the detriment of Argentina as well as the Falklands. The Government's answer to the problem, and to what Sir Geoffrey Howe describes as increasingly aggressive Argentinian fishing, is the extension of the exclusion zone, the provision of fishery protection vessels, and a warning that force might be used "in appropriate circumstances." The Opposition were quick to point out yesterday that this must mean a setback for diplomatic relations, but perhaps the real point is that if the diplomacy had been going properly in the first place, unilateral action would not have been necessary.

It is in the interests of both Britain and Argentina to find a way of conserving stocks. Four years on from the conflict, and with a democratic regime installed in Buenos Aires, this is exactly the kind of problem on which co-operation ought to be possible. Yet progress towards normal relations remains disgracefully slow despite the restoration of trade. The opinion polls show strong support for a negotiated settlement which would guarantee the future security of the islanders and rid Britain of an unacceptably costly policy built on unrealistic assumptions. There is little doubt that such a solution would find favour with the Cabinet. As in the case of EMS membership, this is an issue where Prime Ministerial inflexibility is at the root of the problem. The prospect of new diplomatic clashes over fishing rights shows up the futility of Fortress Falklands.

EDITORIAL GLASGOW HERALD
30 OCT 86 -

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EDITORIAL GLASGOW HERALD
30 OCT 86 -

Falklands fishery zone raises fears over Argentina

By STUART TROTTER
Political Correspondent

RELATIONS between Britain and Argentina reached their lowest point since the Falklands conflict yesterday when the Government announced a 150-mile fishery protection zone around the islands.

The decision raised fears among some MPs of armed confrontation with Argentina which claim the waters as part of its sovereign territory.

The Russians, who have a large trawler fleet in the South Atlantic, have signed a fishery agreement covering the same area with the Argentinians.

However, the Foreign Office is confident the Russians will not seek to enter the 150-mile zone without obtaining licences from the Falklands administration.

None the less, in the Commons, former Navy Minister Mr Keith Speed said the Royal Navy would be needed to give "visible back-up" to the two civilian fishery protection vessels and one light aircraft, which the Falklands administration will have at its disposal to police the area.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told MPs it was open to Britain "to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falklands Isles."

Navy vessels already patrol the 70,000 square miles of usually stormy ocean, mounting guard on the exclusion zone already declared by the Government for the protection of the Falklands.

The fishery protection zone will come into force on February 1 next year and thereafter all foreign boats wanting to fish within it will have to pay licence fees to the Falklands government.

Britain has also declared the islands' entitlement in international law to a 200-mile limit and jurisdiction over the continental shelf but is prepared to negotiate with Argentina on these.

Sir Geoffrey said the Government had offered Argentina a fisheries agreement without prejudice to either side's position on the sovereignty of the Falklands but had been obstructed.

The Argentine agreements with Russia and Bulgaria for fishing rights in Argentine waters which the Argentinians insist include those around the Falklands made the British Government decide to act.

At least one violent incident has already occurred over disputed sovereignty in the area. Last March an Argentine patrol boat sank a Taiwanese fishing vessel which refused to obey its orders. One Taiwanese sailor died in the incident.

Shadow Foreign Secretary Mr Denis Healey said the decision "embedded the Government still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

SDP leader Dr David Owen said the decision was fully justified on fishing conservation grounds but suggested Britain should offer to pool sovereignty over the Falklands with Argentina or transfer it to the UN Security Council.

Most Tory MPs backed the move enthusiastically. Sir Peter Blaker said they rejected Mr Healey's "surly and weak-kneed reaction."

The Falklands government has appealed to Britain to introduce such a zone since the end of the 1982 conflict to prevent over-fishing and provide it with valuable additional revenue from the licensees.

Foreign vessels — Russian, Polish, Japanese, Korean, Bulgarian, Spanish, and others — have flocked to the rich, unrestricted fishing grounds.

From about 25 boats in the 1984 fishing season the number of vessels has risen to 600 this year. The Government hopes that more distant water British vessels will now head there.

Labour MP Mr Eric Deakins said the decision could escalate into "another cod war." Mr Dennis Skinner suggested it was "a little bit of electioneering."

He told Sir Geoffrey: "You are giving the impression to the British people that we are going to take on the Argies again."

The Falklands government will be purchasing second-hand the two vessels and plane it needs for patrol duties.

GLASGOW HERALD
30 OCT 86 pag 3

[illegible]

Argentina suspends draftees' leave in new Falklands row

From JOHN REICHERTZ in Buenos Aires, Thursday.

ARGENTINA suspended leave for conscripted servicemen today in an angry reaction to britain's planned imposition of a fishing conservation zone around the disputed Falklands islands.

The Soviet Union charged that the British move would only hinder the search for an British-Argentine solution to the impasse which drew the two countries into war four years ago.

However, in London a senior official said Britain had received assurances from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that the Kremlin did not want to cause trouble in the South Atlantic region.

Argentine Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena told a news conference in Buenos Aires that a military advisory committee had been convened to handle the situation created by Britain's unilateral imposition of the 150-mile zone from next February.

"We do not in any sense want to be dragged into a conflict," Jaunarena said, adding that Argentina's ne measures were normal for any nation reacting to aggression.

He said the military committee would consist of President Raul Alfonsin, chiefs of staff of the three armed forces, the head of the joint chiefs of staff, and the defence minister.

Asked about the Argentine action, A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "I wouldn't read too much into that." He added that no formal diplomatic response from Buenos Aires had been received in London.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference: "We regret that Britain has taken unilateral steps that are in contradiction with decisions of the United Nations on the Malvinas (Falkland) islands question."

British officials said they were working on an understanding that the Russians and their East Bloc allies, who fish extensively in the region, would respect the new zone and either apply for licences or withdraw their fleets.

Diplomats in Moscow said the initial reaction there gave no indication whether the Soviet Union would agree to ask Britain for fishing licences, a move that would clearly upset Argentina.

At his Buenos Aires new s conference Mr Jaunarean was asked if Argentina was concerned about a possible clash between London and Moscow.

"This is so," he replied. "This is an element that creates tension in the area."

In July the Soviet Union and Bulgaria signed fishing accords with Argentina that are regarded in London as an attempt by Buenos Aires to usuro British sovereignty over the Falklands and their territorial waters.

In Brussels, European Community diplomats said Britain had requested talks on South Atlantic fishing with their executive body, the European Commission.

The diplomats said British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe wanted to discuss arrangements for fishing by EEC fleets when the conservation zone comes into force on February 1.

Sir Geoffrey denied that the Government was seeking and electoral bonus by creating the zone around the Falklands. The suggestion came from Labour's foreign affairs spokesman Mr George Foulkes, who said there was not only a danger of a clash with the Argentinians but also with Russian fishing vessels.

GLASGOW HERALD 31 OCT 86 pag 7

Britain imposes limits on Falkland fishing

By David Adamson, Diplomatic Correspondent

BRITAIN is to impose controls on fishing in the 150-mile protection zone around the Falklands, because of what are seen as persistent Argentine attempts to erode British sovereignty and the failure of voluntary agreements to curb over-fishing.

What is officially known as the Interim Conservation and Management Zone will come into effect on Feb. 1. The Falkland Islands government will be responsible for policing the zone with an observation aircraft and two unarmed fishery protection vessels.

A foreign Office spokesman said last night that support from Royal Navy warships would be available if necessary.

Vessel sunk

In a Commons statement Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, said Argentina had embarked on "aggressive patrolling" more than 200 miles from Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands. He cited the case of the Taiwanese fishing vessel sunk in May by an Argentine coastguard cutter with the loss of one life.

Equally important were the bilateral agreements Argentina made in August with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

These were interpreted in London as including the fisheries zone around the Falklands, even though Mr Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, told Sir Geoffrey in September that they were not intended to prejudice British interests.

The new conservation area will be the same size as the existing protection zone around the islands. This is smaller than the usual 200-mile fisheries limit.

However, Sir Geoffrey said that Britain claimed the entitlement of the Falklands, under international law, to a 200-mile limit, subject to agreement with Argentina on delimitiation.

The islanders have been pressing for some time for measures to halt over-fishing of squid, hake and blue whiting.

There were 250 fishing vessels in the zone in 1984, and 600 during this year's season, according to British officials. Most of them came from Eastern Europe and the Far East.

Argentine rejection

The Argentine Government rejected the fishing zone. A Government spokesman said Britain's decision was an affront to Argentine sovereignty.—Reuter.

DAILY TELEGRAPH
30 OCT 86 pag 1

Britain reasserts sovereignty with 150 mile conservation area • B. Aires rejects 'affront' over territory

Britain imposes Falklands fish zone

By Hella Pick,
Diplomatic Correspondent



"Oh dear, it was fresh only the other day — can we sell you something from the freezer?"

Britain is to establish a 150 mile fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands from next February in a move to reassert its sovereignty over the disputed territory.

It will be known as the Falklands Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone (FICZ) and corresponds approximately to the current Falklands Islands Protection Zone.

Britain's decision, forecast in The Guardian last week, is designed as a conservation measure, but i also intended as a fresh political rebuff to Argentina's claims over what it calls the Malvinas.

The Falkland Islands authorities will use their own civilian fisheries protection vessels and a surveillance aircraft to enforce the new regime. British forces on the islands will also be available to police the new fisheries conservation zone.

Squid's out in South Seas, page 21

In a parallel move, the Government has also formally asserted its right, under international law to a fisheries limit of 200 miles around the Falklands, except where it overlaps with the Argentinian zone.

Although there is little hope of an oil bonanza in Falklands waters, Britain has decided to confirm its rights to jurisdiction over the continental shelf up to the limits prescribed by international law.

The decision, announced by the Foreign Secretary in the Commons yesterday, brought an immediate and angry response from Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, who said it would sink the Government "still deeper in the quagmire of the Falklands commitment."

Labour's Mr George Foulkes added that a high seas clash with the Soviet Union is now a "real possibility," because of a Soviet agreement with Argentina which allows it to fish within the 200-mile limit around the Falklands.

That agreement is one of the factors that triggered off Britain's move to establish its own rights over the zone. Foreign Office officials yesterday expressed optimism that Moscow would accept the new situation and avoid provocative moves in the South Atlantic.

Sir Geoffrey said there was nothing irrevocable about yesterday's decision, and that Britain would remain open to multilateral arrangements to conserve Falklands fish stocks. "What we are doing is asserting, as is necessary for the maintenance of our sovereignty and for the preservation of our fish stocks in the South Atlantic, the jurisdiction to which we are entitled," he said.

The Falklands Islands representative in London, Mr Alastair Cameron, yesterday welcomed the Government's move, saying: "It will give us control over one of our major resources."

The Falklan Islands' authorities will now be able to sell fishing licences for the zone, which Mr Cameron said "will allow proper measures to be introduced for the effective conservation of the fishing that will play an important part in the continuing economic development of the Falkland Islands."

An Argentine government spokesman, Mr Jose Ignacio Lopez, said the decision was an affront to Argentinian sovereignty in the area of the [illegible]

Argentina would sustain our inalienable rights, maintaining the firm decision to bring this question to all international forums." It has taken several diplomatic steps since the military defeat to pressure Britain to discuss the islands' sovereignty.

Sir Geoffrey, in his statement

continued over

GUARDIAN 30 OCT 86 pag 1 y 36

de la pag anterior.

Continued from page one
to the House of Commons yesterday, indicated that the decision to impose unilaterally a fishing zone had been taken reluctantly and as a last resort. He blamed Argentina for "indifference to the Falklands conservation needs, and a preference for obstruction rather than cooperation."

There is a strongly-held belief in Whitehall that Argentina, more than any other country, has deliberately slowed down multilateral negotiations on a fisheries conservation regime for the Falklands, which are being conducted under the aegis of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation.

While Britain is not abandoning the negotiations, the Government has concluded that there is now no hope of achieving a settlement in time for the next fishing season, which opens on February 1.

Fishing, which until now has been unregulated except by voluntary promises that few countries have kept, has "had a serious impact on fishing stocks" in the south-west Atlantic, the Foreign Secretary told the Commons yesterday. "This has aroused widespread concern."

"From the outset, the Government took the view that the problem would best be solved on a collaborative basis," he said. Britain had given "every support" to the FAO initiative. "In public and directly to the Argentine Government, I had made clear our view that a solution without prejudice to our respective positions could and should be found."

Sir Geoffrey said that Argentina's actions "have undermined the multilateral approach."

The Government has indicated that the breaking point came when Argentina signed fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria in June. They were drawn up to advance Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Falklands, by including the 200 mile fishing zone around the islands.

Jeremy Morgan writes from Buenos Aires: Diplomatic observers said yesterday that the British decision had posed a dilemma for President Alfonsin.

Until now, Argentina has blamed Britain's policy of allowing other countries to fish around the Falklands for a growing over-exploitation of natural resources in the South Atlantic.

However, Buenos Aires has always refused to consider the multilateral fishing agreement proposed by London on the grounds that signing an accord might somehow imply that Argentina recognises that Britain had some rights in the region.

Noting that under Britain's plan, unarmed vessels will police the new fishing zone, a diplomat asked: "What is likely to happen when an Argentinian gunboat comes across a British patrol?"

GUARDIAN 30 OCT 86 pag 173

55

FISH WAR LOOMS WITH THE ARGIES

150-mile Falklands zone

By GEORGE LYNN

A NEW clash with Argentina loomed last night when Britain announced massive fishing curbs around the Falklands.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said a 150-mile fishing exclusion zone would be thrown around the islands from February.

Within hours Argentine government officials said they would oppose the limit "with all the peaceful means we can use."

And in the Commons, Labour MPs warned the curbs could lead to a new cod war involving not only Argentina, but also Russia, which has a huge fishing fleet around the disputed area.

Shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey warned: "It's a very risky and dangerous game."

Unlawful

From February 1, only vessels licensed by the Government will be allowed in.

And the British garrison on the islands will be on hand to use force if necessary.

Sir Geoffrey said: "It is, of course, open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances around the Falklands."

He accused Argentina of "aggressive patrolling" inside the 200-mile limit Britain established after the Falklands war.

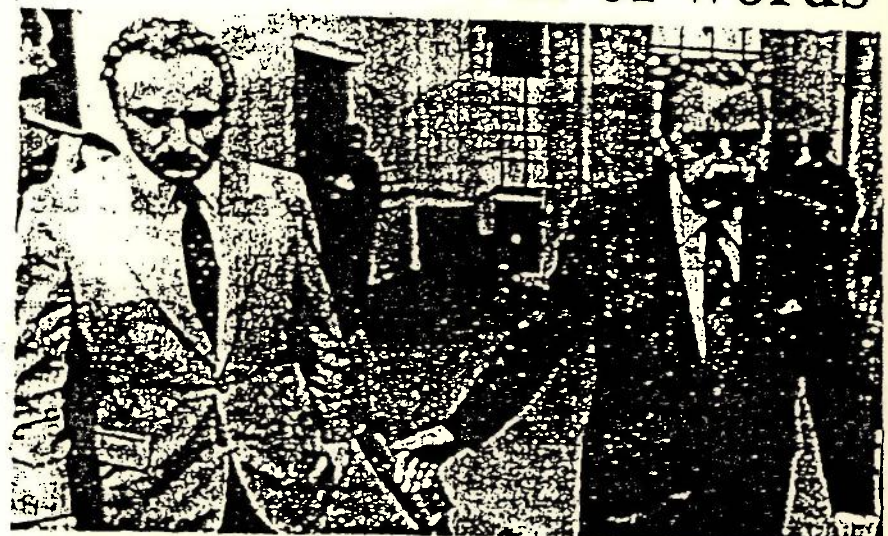
And he said unlawful use of force had already cost one life when Argenitnian aircraft sank a Taiwanese fishing boat on the edge of the 200-mile zone.

SUN 30 OCT 86 pag 2

Muted reaction to Falklands fishing zone

Argentina sticks to war of words

From Eduardo Cue
Buenos Aires



President Alfonsín right, and the Defence Minister, Señor Horacio Jaunarena, leave a surprise cabinet meeting yesterday.

Argentina yesterday cancelled early discharges for all conscripts in the armed services and created a top-level military committee in response to Britain's decision to establish a 200-mile fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands.

Señor Horacio Jaunarena, the Defence Minister, refused to say how many conscripts would be kept in uniform. In recent years Argentinian conscripts have been released before the end of their one-year tour of duty for budgetary reasons. There are about 35,000 conscripts in all three services.

Official reaction to the British move has been relatively mild in view of the strong emotions the Falklands issue raises here. President Alfonsin cancelled a planned television address to the nation on Wednesday night, apparently having been convinced by a number of Cabinet members that it would be best not to dramatize the issue. The Government contented itself with the release of a long communiqué calling the British decision "juridically and politically unacceptable".

Señor Jaunarena said the coastguard had not received new instructions and added: "Frankly, I think it's ridiculous to say that the response on the part of Argentina is warlike." Buenos Aires did not want to be "dragged into a conflict" over the matter.

Reflecting a widespread view here, Señor Jaunarena indicated that Britain's move may have been in part dictated by internal British politics, reflecting that Mrs Margaret Thatcher will soon have to seek re-election.

Señor Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, yesterday morning called in the ambassadors of the countries that fish in the South Atlantic to say that Argentinian policy on the issue was unchanged. Argentina has signed bilateral fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, allowing them to fish in the disputed waters.

The National Defence Committee created on Wednesday was to have been established anyway under a law now before Congress. Its role is to discuss military response in times of crises.

TIMES. (P. 7)
31 OCTUBRE 1986

Argentina cancels leave

Argentina suspended leave for conscripted servicemen in reaction to Britain's planned imposition of a fishing conservation zone around the Falkland islands. Page 3

F. TIMES
31 OCT 86 pag 1

Argentina halts army leave amid Falklands anger

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES AND JIMMY BURNS IN LONDON

NATIONALIST feelings in Argentina rose sharply yesterday in the wake of Britain's unilateral decision to extend its fishing rights around the Falkland Islands to 150 miles. The Cabinet was called into emergency session and all army leave has been cancelled.

The Cabinet denounced the British action as "politically and legally unacceptable" and warned that it would cause serious tension with "unforeseeable consequences which may also affect the interests of third countries."

This appeared to be a reference to the Soviet Union whose recent fishing agreement with Argentina could be jeopardised by the British move.

Beneath the inflamed public rhetoric however, Argentina's democratic government is trying to turn the British action to its own diplomatic advantage rather than risk a renewed military clash.

Government and opposition parties in the Argentinian Congress, which met for an emergency debate, unanimously condemned the measure, describing it as "an act of aggression against Argentina."

The Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, said, during the debate, that a British sovereignty claim over the maritime resources above and below the continental shelf around the islands was "a fundamental change" in the British position. He said the move "affirms the British decision not to come to a peaceful solution."

In an emotional outburst during the debate, one member of the ruling Radical Party, Mr Federico Stroani, said: "We are going to sink as many trawlers as necessary in exercising our sovereign rights."

In general, however, the underlying emphasis both in the Congress and in the Argentinian Press has been on making renewed diplomatic efforts in international forums and through bilateral contacts to rally support to Argentina's sovereignty claim.

Cronista Comercial, a respected daily newspaper, quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying: "The mouse has fallen into the trap." It argued that nations that had previously remained neutral on the sovereignty dispute would now gravitate towards Argentina's claim as a result of the unilteral British measure.

The Soviet Union expressed regret yesterday at Britain's action and said it would only hinder the search for an Anglo-Argentine solution.

Diplomats said the initial Soviet reaction gave no indication whether Moscow would agree to ask Britain for licences for its fishing fleet, a move that would clearly upset Argentina.

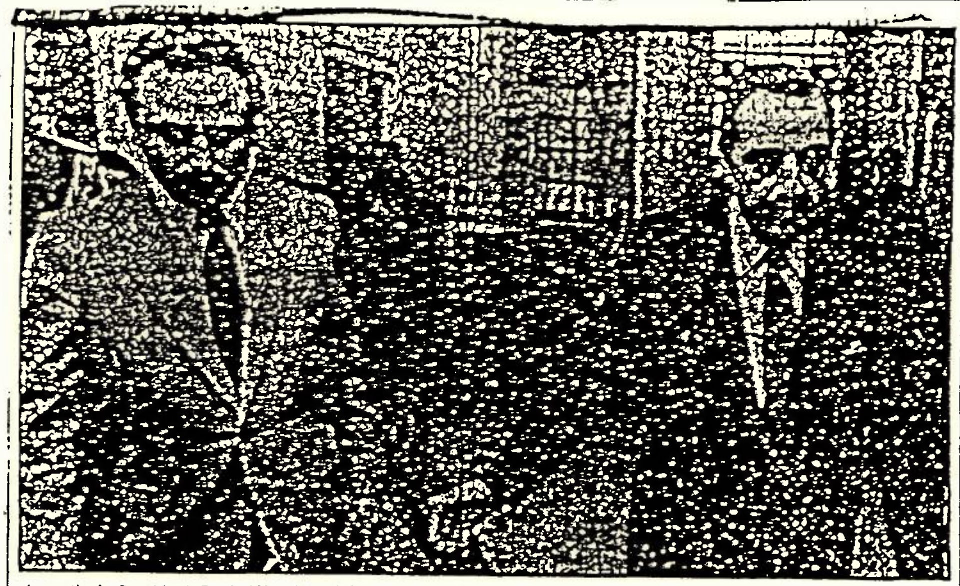
The Argentine Minister of Defence, Mr Horacio Juanarena, said it would be absurd to think that Argentina's response would be bellicose.

Mr Juanarena claimed that Britain had not clarified whether its fisheries protection measures would be imposed immediately around the islands and said that further measures regarding a higher state of military alert might be taken in due course "depending on how the situation develops."

No new instructions have been issued to Argentina's coastguard vessels about patrolling Argentina's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. But Mr Juanarena emphasised that in the area of overlap with Britain's 150-mile protection zone around the islands, Argentina patrols would extend only up to the edge of the zone. This did not change in any way Argentina's claim to its sovereign rights, but was intended to avoid any possible incidents with Britain which could aggravate the situation."

In recent weeks the Argentine Government, under pressure from the domestic fishing lobby has reinforced its fishing claims in the South Atlantic, using patrol boats to arrest "illegal" foreign ships. In one incident earlier this year, the Argentines sunk a Taiwanese trawler.

FINANCIAL TIMES 31 OCT 86 pag 3



Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin (right) and Mr Horacio Jaunarena, the Defence Minister, leaving a meeting with government and military officials in Buenos Aires after Britain's declaration of a fisheries exclusion zone.

Alfonsin attacks 'provocation'

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

President Alfonsin sought support for Argentina in Latin America as his government came under nationalist pressure at home for action against Britain's planned fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

Government officials and newspapers complained that the British decision was a "deliberate provocation" and a manoeuvre to complicate efforts to get talks started on settling the Falklands dispute.

The Defence Minister, Mr Horacio Jaunarena said yesterday that the Government has suspended the discharge of armed forces conscripts and will create a special military committee in response to Britain's expansion of fishing rights around the disputed islands.

Mr Jaunarena said that naval vessels remained under orders to patrol the country's 200-mile offshore zone, which overlaps with the new Falklands fishing zone.

In a rowdy debate in Congress, a leading member of his own Radical Party, Mr Federico Storani claimed that Britain reacted because Argentina's fishing accords with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria meant "we stuck the finger where it belonged."

Mr Storani, who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Lower House of Congress, said: "We are going to sink as many trawlers as necessary to exercise our sovereignty."

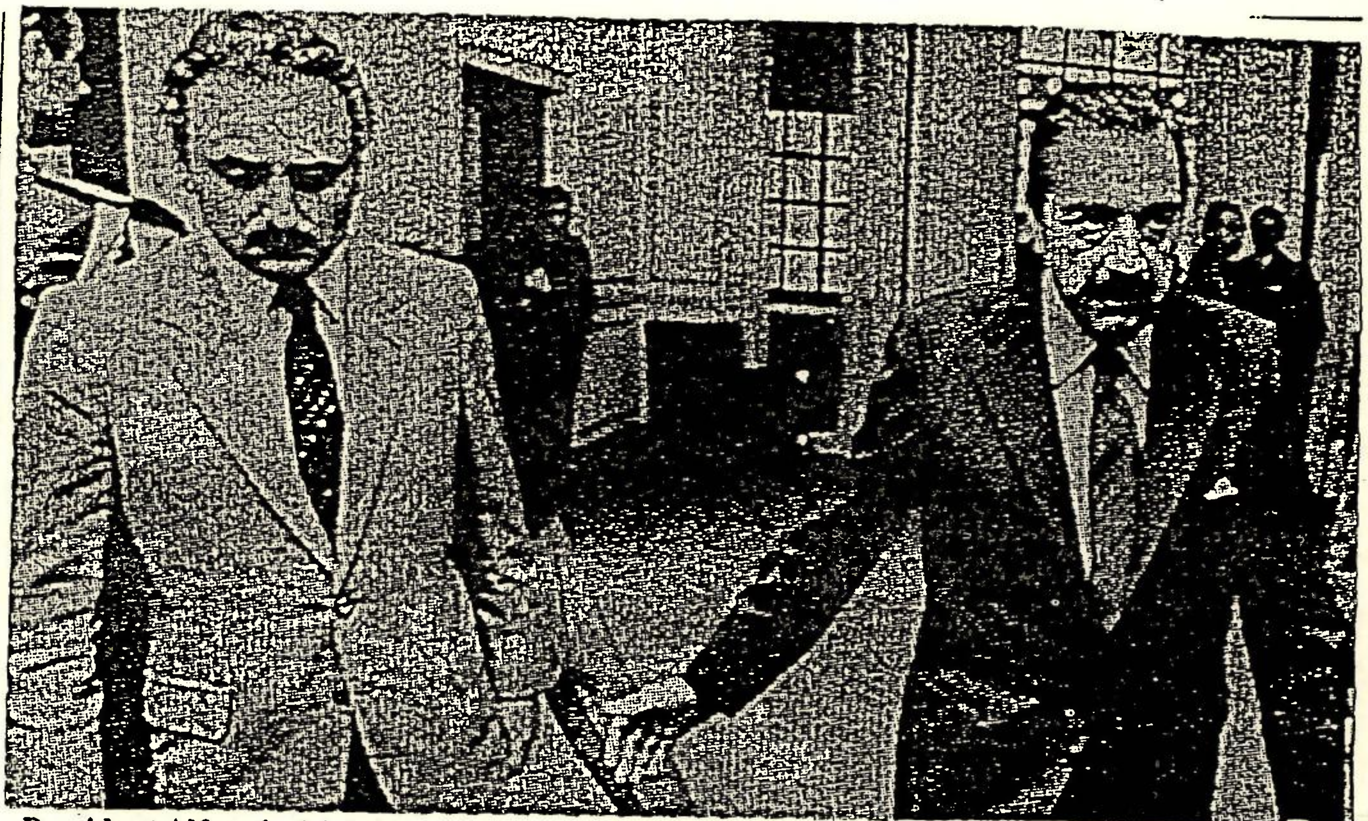
President Alfonsin meanwhile has spoken with several other heads of state in a bid to bolster international criticism of Britain's plan. A spokesman said he had talked on the telephone to the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, and Presidents Jose Sarney, of Brazil, Jaime Lusinchi, of Venezuela, Julio Sanguinetti, of Uruguay and Alan Garcia of Peru — Argentina's closest ally during the Falklands war in 1982.

However, senior members of the Government tried to play down the prospect of renewed conflict in the South Atlantic.

Speaking after the meeting with President Alfonsin, the Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, warned that the Briaish plan could provoke armed incidents between Argentina and Britain, but he added "although frankly I hope this does not happen."

Mr Jaunarena also cautioned that Britain's decision "creates tension in the area," but he insisted Argentina did not intend to be "dragged into" a dispute. He revealed that Argentinian coastguard vessels were not patrolling waters lying within both Argentina's 200 mile claim to maritime rights in the South Atlantic and Britain's 150 mile "exclusion zone" around the Falklands.

GUARDIAN 31 OCT 86
pag 7



President Alfonsín (right) and Defence Minister Juanarena leave a meeting with the military.

Alfonsín warns Britain

From Kevin Noblet
of Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES — The Argentine Defence Minister, Horacio Jaunarena, said yesterday the Government has suspended the discharge of armed forces conscripts and will create a special military committee in response to Britain's expansion of fishing rights around the Falkland Islands.

President Raúl Alfonsín had warned that the British action would "cause serious tensions and conflicts, with consequences as yet unforeseeable."

Mr Jaunarena said naval vessels remained under orders to patrol the country's 200-mile offshore zone, which overlaps with the new Falklands 150-mile fishing zone.

He said his country was not trying to provoke any incident that could cause Britain to complain of Argentine agression. He ordered that the discharge of conscripts, scheduled for the end of October, should be suspended to keep the armed forces in a state of readiness.

President Alfonsín planned to order the creation of a special military committee to advise him on the affair, Mr Jaunarena said. The committee would consist of the President, Mr Jaunarena, the armed forces chief of staff and the heads of the army, navy and air force.

Fortress Falklands, page 17

INDEPENDENT 31 OCT 86 pag 8

Fishing in troubled Falklands waters

ARGENTINA has reacted with predictable fury to the establishment of a 150-mile fishing exclusion zone around the Falklands. At a practical level, the decision excludes Argentine trawlers from most of the best fishing grounds in the Southern Atlantic. At a symbolic level it rams home to a defeated nation the fact that it was, indeed, defeated and that the Falklands remain the Falklands.

President Alfonsin denounced the unilateral British move as "a new act of provocation" and Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Mr George Foulkes, joined the chorus in the Commons.

"It was," he said, "an extremely provocative decison." He raised the alarmist spectre of a clash between British and Soviet ships in the area — a prospect made possible only by the arrival of fleets of Soviet, Bulgarian and Polish factory ships off the Falklands.

In as much as the British decision provoked, it was, by definition, provocative. But it was essentially defensive and reactive. The South Atlantic is being systematically over-fished. That is not in question. Over-fishing is not in the long-term interest of Argentina, of the Falklands or of any other state in the region. Britain has indicated its willingness to come to terms with Argentina, as part of any multilateral deal negotiated through the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. Argentina preferred to sign bi-lateral deals with the Soviet Union and with Bulgaria, giving them "rights" to fish in disputed waters which Britain claims and which it *de facto* administers.

This cannot have come about by accident. President Alfonsin is a cool, calculating and intelligent fellow. He is no drunken, jingoistic General Galtieri.

To invite the Soviet block into these disputed waters is, quite calculatedly, to up the international ante in an effort to increase pressure upon Great Britain to come to terms. (The United States, in particular, is determined to keep the Russians out of the region and to keep Argentina out of the sticky embrace of the Soviet block.) Whatever his reasons, and they must be as much commercial as diplomatic, President Alfonsin is responsible for the increase in tension of recent days.

There is a degree of gamble about the whole exercise. Not the gamble exploited by Labour of an unintended and uncontrolled naval conflict with the Soviet Union. The Russians are not that silly and neither are the British. Not even a gamble about naval conflict with Argentina. The Argentine Navy keeps its distance. The gamble, strictly on the British side, is whether the Royal Navy and the RAF are in any position properly to police the new zone. (There have been difficulties in enforcing the existing, much narrower, defence zone.) To declare an exclusion zone we cannot enforce, is to undermine British credibility quite gratuitously. The only cause for optimism is that, once the ritual denunciations have died away, Argentina will accept that it has, pragmatically, issue by issue, to come to terms with Great Britain. And that fishing rights is a good topic to start upon. The Government was right not to throw in its hand in advance.

EDITORIAL INDEPENDENT
31 OCT 86 pag 16 -

FISHING RIGHTS – AND WRONGS

The need to deter over-fishing in the waters around the Falkland Islands has annually become more pressing. While 250 boats trawled there in 1984, the total had risen to 450 in 1985 and to 600 so far this year.

Falklanders have long argued the case for a fisheries exclusion zone, controlled from Port Stanley by a licensing arrangement. They would thus earn a living from their surrounding waters without the inconvenience of having to put to sea themselves. Until now this has been opposed by the British government on the grounds that it would be difficult and expensive to police and would thus impose an unpopular burden on the British taxpayer.

Its preferred option has been a multilateral arrangement under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Signatories would have a vested interest in policing the zone themselves and ensuring that catch quotas were observed. The FAO has been compiling a report with this end in view, and even Argentina seemed at one time to be in favour.

But the task has taken much longer than expected and the FAO study has repeatedly missed its deadlines. While concern has grown over the fish stocks, everyone has blamed everyone else – the Argentines complaining that the continuing British 150-mile protection zone around the islands has prevented their own gunboats from policing the waters themselves.

This might be just as well because one of their gunboats actually sank a Taiwanese trawler in Argentine waters last summer. The Buenos Aires government has, moreover, taken matters into its own hands by signing bilateral fishing treaties with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria – which have impinged on the territorial waters round the Falklands. With no multilateral treaty in sight and the Argentines doing their own thing, British policy has changed and a fisheries exclusion zone has been declared.

It is less than ideal because, for one thing, it helps to perpetuate the ill-feeling between Britain and Argentina. In that sense it might be hoped that the new regime, which comes into force next February 1, will be an interim arrangement until the FAO has had been able to work out an agreed long-term solution.

This depends, however, upon how sucessfully the islanders can run things. The difference between this arrangement and previous proposals is that the zone will be administered and patrolled by the Falklands government itself, which will pay for chartering two patrol vessels and a surveillance aircraft out of the revenue from licences. The job should be less onerous than was at first thought because studies have shown that the fish concentrate in certain areas – obviating the need for gunboats to sail endlessly round the entire zone. The existing Royal Navy and RAF presence also means that the civil patrol craft would not be entirely unsupported.

Falklanders hope that the revenue from licences will more than meet the costs. Not only that, but a properly administered system of controls should guarantee the future of the local fishing industry, thereby encouraging the growth of profitable onshore services to maintain and supply visiting boats. If in six months' time the system is working well, the Falklanders themselves would be reluctant to surrender control to some international body.

Such considerations lie ahead, however. For the time being, it looks as if the Government has acted correctly in acting unilaterally. It should prevent the further erosion of fish stocks and if the islands' economy can be made to prosper, it will be a considerable bonus. The disadvantage lies in the further damage it does to Anglo-Argentine relations. But at least to some extent, the Argentines have only themselves to blame.

EDITORIAL TIMES 31 OCT 86

pag 21

62

Fishing in barren waters

Crises don't long remain in abeyance. They wax; they wane; or are settled. No one has seriously tried to settle the Falklands crisis. For four years, it has remained in abeyance. Now it is coming back.

Typically, it is events on the ground and in the surrounding ocean that lead the diplomats by the nose. Many times during those four years, the indigenous Falklanders have asked Whitehall to declare a policed fishing zone around their coast. They wanted to develop a fishing industry. They saw trawlers from all over the world (and especially the Communist world) hoovering fish from their seas. But the Foreign Office couldn't stand the cost or the ruckus, and nothing was done. Then the Argentinians began to sign fishing treaties and grant rights to areas which they considered their own. Glumly, this week, the FO plopped off the fence, declaring prohibited areas — and pushing the Argentinians yesterday into angry denunciation. Meanwhile the military run-down on the islands — and thus their lightening burden on the taxpayer — looks to be in abeyance, too, as the RAF and Navy stands by to repel fishing boarders.

And yet, in the real world, it could all be utterly different. Buenos Aires, under a democratically elected President, has slashed defence spending. There is no possibility of another invasion. There is no reason on earth to continue the static state of theoretical hostility. Equally, though, there has been an absence of resolve to set the past to one side and move on. The argument has constantly drifted away from Britain. Every UN vote is sad humiliation. Even America thinks we're potty not to secure what is clearly on offer: a long term, power sharing deal, which would allow every islander to live out his or her days in security. But no: that opportunity has been irresolutely shunned — whilst the only real alternative, the full-throated development of the islands, has been nervelessly pushed to one side. Fortess Falklands sounds like resolution and stalwartness. In practice, it is merely drift.

EDITORIAL GUARDIAN 31 OCT 86 pag 12

Fish 'war' unlikely says Howe

By David Adamson
Diplomatic Correspondent

THE DANGER of a conflict with the Soviet Union over the new fishery control zone around the Falklands was played down yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

Critics of the plan have forseen the Royal Navy being called in to deal with Soviet and East European fishing vessels which defied orders to leave or obtain a licence from the Falklands Islands government.

Sir Geoffrey said in a BBC radio interview that he did not think there was a "very great possibility" of a dispute with the Russians.

The creation of a licensing system for the 150-mile-wide zone will create problems for the Soviet and other foreign vessels as purchasing one could be construed as recognising British sovereignty, a matter which is disputed by Argentina

Russia recently signed a fishing agreement with Argentina. Since then there have been assurances from the Kremlin that it does not prejudice British claims to the waters around the Falklands.

And with the Soviet Union anxious to improve relations with its European neighbours as it negotiates on disarmament agreements, it is unlikely that Moscow will look for a row with Britain in the South Atlantic.

DAILY TELEGRAPH (P.6)
31 OCTUBRE 86

Britain's action condemned

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday condemned Britain's decision to impose the fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands, claiming that it was in direct breach of United Nations resolutions covering international conduct in the South Atlantic.

The first Soviet reaction had been keenly awaited in Whitehall, which appears to have taken a calculated gamble on Soviet goodwill, following hints in London earlier this year from Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that Moscow would not cause trouble in the region.

Questioned by *The Times* at a press conference here Mr Gen-nady Gerasimov, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, said: "It is deplorable that the British side has taken unilateral steps running counter to the UN decision on those islands."

British officials noted with some relief the careful wording of the Soviet response.

TIMES (P. 7)
31 OCTUBRE 86.

Moscow 'regrets' Falklands fishing zone

By Michael Simmons

The Soviet Union expressed regret yesterday about Britain's decision to establish a fisheries protection zone round the Falklands Islands, and said that it would make a negotiated settlement between Britain and Argentina more difficult.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry official spokesman, said in Moscow last night: "We regret that Britain has taken unilateral steps that are in contradiction with the UN decision on the Malvine Islands question."

Even so, it became clear yesterday that the British decision to set up the 150-mile zone could still stand or fall on Soviet goodwill and the Russians' growing taste for fish.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, rejected the claim by Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign secretary, that British aircraft or seaborne forces could be brought into action against the Soviet fleet.

To Mr Healey's suggestion that the risk of a new fish war could not be excluded, Sir Geoffrey replied: "I think that is not a very great probability."

However, the Soviet Union, as a party affected by the proposed protection zone, now has three months, along with its East European allies, to apply for the appropriate fishing licence or to withdraw its fleets.

But Argentina is the Soviet Union's bigget trading partner in the Third World, and signed fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria only a few months ago. This move was seen in London as an Argentinian attempt to usurp British sovereignty over the islands and their waters.

President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina was in Moscow earlier this month for talks with Soviet leaders which led to a joint communique calling for the closure of Britain's "major military base" on the Falklands.

GUARDIAN 31 OCT 86
pag 7

Gorbachev for Latin America

By Our Washington Staff

Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, is planning a diplomatic offensive in America's backyard by visiting a number of Latin American countries next year.

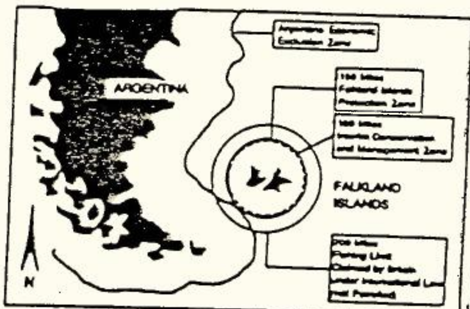
Top of the list is Mexico, whose political stability is of concern to Washington. Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua, Argentina and Peru are also said to be on Mr Gorbachev's tentative itinerary.

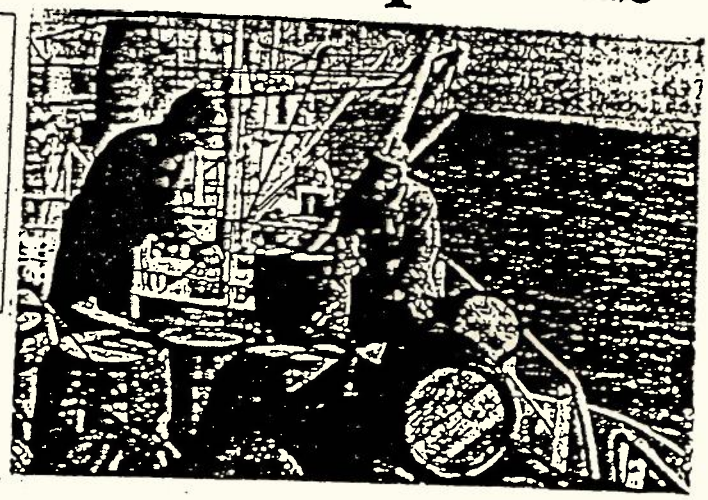
D. TELEGRAPH 31 OCT 86

pag 1

Fortress Falklands expands

Fishing is a new source of tension in the South Atlantic, writes Isabel Hilton





The new zone (dotted above) has put the Argentine armed forces on alert. Factory fleets: Russian fishermen (right) on board one of the many foreign vessels in the South Atlantic.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's announcement that Britain has established the Falkland Islands Interim Conservation and Management Zone and declaring the Falkland Islands' fishing limit at 200 miles burst like an exploding hand grenade in Buenos Aires. A flurry of meetings followed between President Alfonsín, his foreign and defence ministers and the chiefs of staff of the army, navy and airforce, followed by a full cabinet meeting to discuss the measure. All armed forces leave was cancelled and the armed forces were put on a state of alert.

This does not imply that Argentina contemplated a military response to the announcement. The official statements from Buenos Aires were couched in the tones of outraged diplomacy rather than military threat.

One commentator observed that the military aspect of the response was "playing to the gallery", but although President Alfonsín has renounced the use of force as a means of dealing with the Falklands dispute, he is engaged in a constant battle with his own military as he tries to reduce their domestic influence.

Yesterday that cause was set back by the creation of the Comité Militar (Military Committee), comprising the three service commanders and the Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with the Minister of Defence, to advise the President in times of crisis. Their brief includes foreign policy and the committee was set to an accompanying chorus of complaint from senior military men that if President Alfonsín has not cut back the military budget they could have pre-empted or at least responded to the British move by low level harassment.

The argument may be unpalatable to President Alfonsín but to the nationalistic Argentines it offers the prospect of some national face saving and may force President Alfonsín to make some budgetary concessions to the military. As it is, President Alfonsín appears before his electorate impotent in the face of what is being received in Argentina as a major escalation of the British presence. While the British presence was largely military, the argument is running in Buenos Aires, and clearly in response to the misdeeds of the former military government, there was at least the prospect of a negotiated solution over time. Now, in the eyes of Argentine public opinion, the British are consolidating an economic interest in the islands, beginning with fish but with an eye on potential mineral wealth.

The Foreign Office strongly disagrees with the Argentine analysis. The measure was necessary, it is argued on the British side, to protect the fish stocks round the Falklands from the serious overfishing they have suffered in the last four years.

The case for protecting the fishing grounds is undeniable. The causes of the overfishing, however, are a combination of coincidence and the situation which arose in the aftermath of the Falklands War.

Until 1982, the British claimed fishing rights only over the three mile territorial waters round the islands. Argentina has long claimed a 200-mile fishing limit, patrolled by Argentine vessels, within which she administered a system of licensing for foreign vessels. Since Argentina claims the Falkland Islands, logically that 200-mile claim extends to waters around the islands.

But before the tensions of 1982, the question of fishing around the Falklands

INDEPENDENT 31 OCT 86

occupied little of anybody's time. Argentina policed the waters, but the fishing grounds had not attracted much international attention and such fishing as there was was largely for fin fish.

After the 1982 war, Argentine ships could no longer patrol within the British 150-mile Falkland Islands Protection Zone and, since the British did not exclude them, international fishing fleets began to exploit the pleasures of unlicensed fishing.

The unhappy coincidence of the discovery that those waters were rich in squid at a time when far eastern fleets were being squeezed out of squid fishing around New Zealand and looking for new grounds exacerbated the problem. Negotiations through the Food and Agriculture Organisation and British attempts to reach voluntary agreements were moving too slowly to be in effect before the fishing season starts in February.

British officials, who have been critical of the fishing treaty Argentina recently concluded with the Soviet Union, nevertheless made it clear on Wednesday that the Russians had given assurances that the treaty concerned Argentine coastal waters and would not be used as a pressure point in Falklands waters. The treaty was an irritant, but not a decisive factor in the announcement.

British arguments over conservation have been received with little sympathy in Argentina where, with their own fishing industry on hard times, feeling is running high on what is perceived as the plundering of Argentine seas. The problem of overfishing is perceived in Argentina as a direct consequence of the British military presence which would vanish if a negotiated settlement could be reached over the fundamental problem of sovereignty.

This week's events have made that prospect even more distant. The force of domestic public opinion for both parties to the dispute has proved an insuperable obstacle to previous attempts at negotiation. Argentina has never been able to abandon her claim to sovereignty since it plays an almost mystical role in the concept of Argentine national identity. It plays no such role for the British who promised in 1967 that sovereignty *was* negotiable.

That admission prompted the formation of the Falkland Islands lobby, inspired by the Falkland Islands Company but rapidly attracting support from both Right and Left-wing backbenchers. In the ensuing parliamentary row, the then foreign secretary Michael Stewart first stated his government's position that it would cede sovereignty to Argentina if it decided that it was in the *interests* of the islanders to do so. A few days later, under pressure from the Falkland Islands lobby, Mr Stewart changed his terms to the islanders' *wishes*.

On that rock, further negotiations foundered, since the islanders resolutely wish to remain British and Argentina's continued offer to consider their interests receives little sympathy in Port Stanley. In view of the events of 1982, this is hardly surprising.

As long as the fundamental issue of sovereignty remains unresolved, such measures as this week's fishing declaration will be necessary. But with each such measure adopted the possibility of negotiations in a dispute which has cost Britain 255 lives and over £3.4 billion since 1982 recedes further.

INDEPENDENT 31 OCT 86 pag 16

Falkland ships to be sold

By Desmond Wettern
Naval Correspondent

TWO OF the Royal Navy's three Falklands patrol vessels, which have now returned home, are to be sold, says the Defence Ministry, while the third is being refitted in Scotland.

The three, all former offshore, oil-rig supply vessels, were converted to meet naval requirements and armed with two light guns in 1983.

The patrol vessel Dumbarton Castle, now fitted with a more powerful radar, is understood to have been detached temporarily from the Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron in home waters, until the islands' remaining patrol vessels' refitting is completed next year.

In future, support for the new civilian Falkland Islands government ships that will patrol the 150-mile fishing limit, Britain is establishing around the islands from next February, will rest with the two frigates that currently operate on three-month tours in rotation in the South Atlantic.

The Navy's two oldest frigates have been retained in service largely to help with this task, but both are due for scrap in early 1988.

In any case, the Defence Ministry insists that neither the frigates nor the submarine, which are assigned to South Atlantic patrols, are concerned with fishery protection.

D. TELEGRAPH 3 NOV 88 pag 7

THE TIMES

1 - XI - 86

Anglo-Argentine relations tense

Buenos Aires (Reuter) — The Argentine Government yesterday whipped up internal support for a sweeping diplomatic initiative against Britain's newly-claimed 200-mile fishing zone around the disputed Falkland Islands.

Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, briefed opposition political leaders on the tense situation and was later meeting with industrialists.

Señor Vicente Saadi, the Peronist leader, expressed his "strongest repudiation" of the British move and Señor Carlos Auyero, the Christian Democrat leader, said that London had carried out an act of "international gangsterism".

● MADRID: Spain has told Britain that its unilateral decision to declare a 150-mile conservation zone around the Falkland Islands, which will be enforced in February 1987, "complicates the situation and does not facilitate a solution of the sovereignty dispute with Argentina" (Richard Wigg writes).

ADJUNTASE ARTICULOS PRENSA LONDRES SOBRE ZONA DE PESCA MALVINAS

Alfonsin's 'fish war' strategy

ARGENTINA today whipped up internal support for a sweeping diplomatic initiative against Britain's newly-aclaimed fishing zone around the disputed Falkland Islands.

The foreign Minister, Senor Dante Caputo, briefed opposition political leaders and was later meeting with industrialists.

Peronist leader Senor Vincente Saadi expressed his "strongest repudiation" of the British move and Senor Carlos Auyero, head of the Christian Democrats said London had carried out an act of "international gangsterism."

On Wednesday Whitehall declared the 1500-mile zone and since the move President Raul Alfonsin has had telephone conversations with a broad range of world leaders, including U.N. Secrtary General Senor Perez De Cuellar.

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany yesterday told him: "the most reasonable route is negotiations between the parties." While Senor Caputo outlined to reporters a course of diplomatic action involving a series of bilateral and multilateral initiatives, but none involved Britain.

Guatemala talks

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was still not clear exactly what tack the government would take first but it might be made at the Organisation of American States' annual meeting in Guatemala next week.

In Rome the office of President Cossiga said the Italian leader had promised President Alfonsin that Italy would consider Argentina's position "in the spirit of the deep and traditional friendship" between the two countries.

A resolution calling for talks between Argentina and Britain to resolve their dispute over the Falklands has been circulated in the United Nations General Assembly. This year's debate on the islands is expected to begin on Nov. 24.

The resolution, sponsored by Algeria, Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, is almost identical to one adopted last year. Joining Britain in opposing that draft were Belize, Oman and the Soloman Islands.—Reuter.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

1 - XI - 86

THE GUARDIAN 1 · XI · 86

Curbs upset Spain

From Paul Ellman
In Madrid

Spain, which supported Argentina in the 1982 Falklands war, has shown strong disapproval of Britain's proclamation of an exclusive fishing zone around the islands.

Spain, with its vast and wide-ranging fishing season, is the EEC member most affected by the British decision to limit fishing within a 150-mile radius of the Falklands.

The foreign ministry in Madrid said that "this unilateral British decision complicates the situation" and indicated it would try to mobilise other EEC countries against Britain. It added that the Spanish Government had repeatedly expressed to London its reservations on the issue.

Because of its sympathy for Argentina, Spain is reluctant to abide by a provision whereby its fishermen will have to obtain British permission to fish in the waters around the Falklands after February 1, thus tacitly recognising British sovereignty over the islands.

SUN 1 · XI · 86

Fishy tail

LABOUR spokesman George Foulkes objects because Britain is imposing a 150-mile fishery exclusion zone around the Falklands.

He says it could cause trouble with the Russians. What on earth has a British possession to do with the Kremlin?

The Russians have a 200-mile exclusion zone around their own coastline. Did Mr Foulkes ever complain about that?

Argentina issues warning to foreign trawlers

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES AND JIMMY BURNS IN LONDON

FOREIGN trawlers entering Argentina's 200-mile exclusive economic zone could be fired upon by coastguard vessels as an "ultimate recourse" to prevent their fishing activities, Mr Dante Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, has warned.

His remarks at a late night press conference on Thursday, followed Britain's unilateral decision to extend its fishing rights around the Falkland Islands in response to Argentina's earlier move to sign bilateral fishing accords with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria to control fishing catches in the South Atlantic.

Mr Caputo said the British move signified that from now foreign trawlers could potentially fish within the 200-mile fishing zone claimed by Britain under international law.

On Wednesday night, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, announced the creation of a 150-mile interim conservation and management zone which will become effective from February 1, 1987. British officials stressed yesterday that, while legally claiming 200 miles, British patrol boats had been instructed not to extend their policing beyond the 150-mile zone in an apparent attempt to minimise serious incidents developing with the Argentine Navy.

However, Britain has taken a calculated gamble on the goodwill of third countries, including the Soviet Union and Spain. British officials appear to have announced their decision on the assumption that third countries who have signed bilateral agreements with Argentina, or who already fish extensively in the South-Atlantic unregulated by either side, will respect the 150-mile zone and either apply to the British authorities for licences or withdraw their fleets.

But the calculation could misfire if the Russians or any other foreign fleets choose to ignore or challenge the new regime.

Mr Caputo said that Argentine coastguard vessels would continue patrolling within Argentina's own 200-mile zone, but only up to the edge of the 150-mile protection zone where the two zones overlap.

Any trawlers trying to take advantage of the newly-claimed 200-mile fisheries zone claimed by Britain (but outside the 150-mile protection zone—essentially the same area as the new interim conservation and management zone—from which all Argentine vessels without permission are excluded) would be arrested.

If trawlers fail to stop under instructions from the Argentine coastguards, Mr Caputo said, the "ultimate recourse is to act militarily."

Meanwhile, President Raul Alfonsin has personally contacted the Spanish and French governments and all the major Latin American leaders requesting their "solidarity."

Spain yesterday followed the Soviet Union's ambivalent line on the issue by saying that it had "reservations." Both Madrid and Moscow have said that the new fisheries zone will hinder the search for an Anglo-Argentine solution, but have given no indication as to whether they will ask Britain for licences for their fishing fleets.

As a member of the European Community, Spain should theoretically recognise Britain's rights to a 200-mile fishing zone. But it has found common cause between its claims to Gibraltar and Argentina's claims to the Falklands after remaining officially neutral on the sovereignty issue during the Falklands war.

Financial Times 1.XI.86

TORY MP'S FEAR POLICY SPLIT ON F AKLANDS.

by Martin Fletcher

THE TIMES 31-X-86 P.G.2

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Senior Conservative MPs are increasingly concerned about what they believe is a growing division on future Falklands policy between two government departments.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, are likely to be invited to appear before the select committee on defence to answer questions about Sir Geoffrey's announcement of a 150-mile fishing exclusion zone around the islands.

Ostensibly the questioning would concern the practicalities of policing the zone, but MPs suspect that the announcement was motivated by Foreign Office self-interest as well as by a desire to conserve fish stocks.

They believe a heightening of tension in Anglo-Argentine relations will strengthen the hand of the Foreign Office, which is determined to maintain a strong garrison in the Falklands. Mr Younger, by contrast, is under considerable pressure to reduce the garrison in order to alleviate an already overstretched defence budget.

Action threat

Senor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said that Argentina may take military action as a last resort against any ship fishing in the 200-mile exclusion zone around the Falklands.

Ignore zone call—P6

D. TELEGRAPH 31 OCT 86
pag 1

Ignore Falkland zone, Argentina tells trawlers

By Cristina Bonasegna in Buenos Aires

FOREIGN trawlers fishing in the South Atlantic were urged yesterday by Argentina to ignore Britain's new 150 mile fishing limit round the Falkland Islands.

The Argentine navy is to continue to patrol within Argentina's own territorial limit, including areas which overlap the new Falklands zone.

Argentina also intends to launch a diplomatic offensive to tell international forums and friendly countries of "the seriousness" of Britain's moves, the foreign minister, Senor Caputo, said yesterday.

Britain was endangering peace in the South Atlantic, and the imposition of the limit was "aggression" towards his country, he told the nation's Senate.

Some politicians reacted by urging immediate sanctions against British interests in Argentina, including confiscation of assets and a halt in debt repayments to British banks.

As tension increased, Senor Frederico Storani, of the ruling Radical party and head of the foreign relations committee, said Britain was reacting to Argentina's recent fisheries agreement "with which we stuck our fingers where it belongs."

'Absurd' response

Although a defence ministry spokesman yesterday denied ther was a military "alert," it confirmed reports that about 4,000 conscripts due for demobilization next month would be retained to keep armed forces in a state of readiness. About 40,000 Argentine conscripts are currently doing military service.

Earlier the defence minister, Señor Horacio Jawnarena, announced that a special committee would be set up to advise the president on military matters.

"Frankly, I would say it is absurd to say that Argentina's response is war-like," said Señor Jaunarena.

He added that Argentina's defence position now was "absolutely superior" to that of 1982 when the former military régime invade the Falklands.

"We hope that National will will prevail. Argentina has a peaceful disposition and will not be dragged into a dispute," he said.

'Serious consequences'

In a statement the Argentine president, Señor Alfonsin, said: "Britain's decision will be the cause of very serious tensions and conflicts with yet unforseen consequences that could affect even the interests of third countries."

Earlier this year Argentina signed two fishing agreements with Russia and Bulgaria, which implicity covered the area around the Falklands.

The statement accused Britain of "obstructing" talks to solve the dispute over the islands, and warned that "the Argentine government will assert its legitimate rights in the aea as well as international forums and will not accept the United Kingdom's arbitrary pretensions to exercise the power that concerns Argentina and take away area and resources that belong o its national patrimony."

D. TELEGRAPH
(P.6). 31 Oct. 86

Argentina to patrol Falklands fish zone

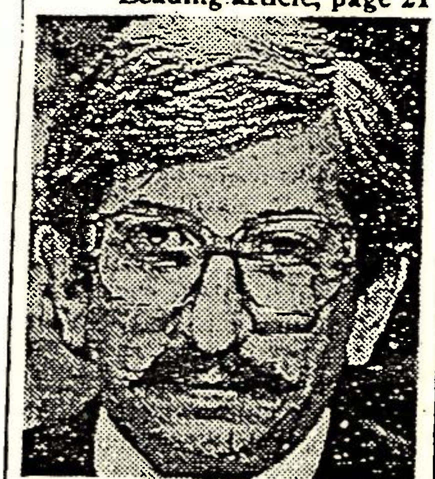
From Eduardo Cue
Buenos Aires

Argentina will continue to patrol what it considers to be its territorial waters despite the new exclusion zone around the Falklands announced this week by Britain, Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said last night.

He emphasized that Argentina's ships would continue to patrol the area around the Falklands and would take military action against vessels which illegally entered the area if all other measures failed. But he categorically denied that Argentinian military forces had been put on alert.

He said that the British exclusion zone had taken effect immediately and that London was attempting to camouflage this by saying that the fishing regulations would take effect only on February 1.

War of words, page 7
Leading article, page 21



Señor Dante Caputo: Denied armed forces are on alert.

TIMES 31 OCT 86 pag 1



developed over the past 20 years. This paper will not examine attitudes towards the Falklands issue itself, but will try rather to analyse the interests and changing attitudes of the major South Atlantic powers—Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and the United States—towards the problem of South Atlantic security. It will be further limited in that I will examine the United States and South Africa only from the perspective of their cooperation with the countries of Latin America.

South Africa

South Africa is the country which has most consistently favoured the formation of 'SATO' and promoted attempts to develop a more tightly-knit system of South Atlantic security. Clearly, South African membership of such a grouping would have obvious military advantages, given the country's strategic location and its own military capabilities, particularly in the field of intelligence and reconnaissance. Moreover, from Pretoria's point of view membership of such a pact would have important political advantages. A central theme of South African foreign policy has been the emphasis on the country's strategic importance to the West and on the extent of the Soviet threat to Western interests in both southern Africa and the South Atlantic. South Africa is a country which has a definite stake in poor relations between the superpowers. A military grouping in the South Atlantic, however informal, has been viewed as an important means of gaining allies and respectability, of overcoming the country's political isolation and of defusing the antipathy generated by apartheid. This policy has led South Africa to seek to develop relations with the countries of Latin America. In addition, there is little doubt that Latin America has also been seen as an important target area for the development of trade and investment.[2]

When Vorster became premier in 1966, South Africa launched its foreign policy of 'outward movement' or 'dialogue' and in the same year the Argentinian and South African navies began an exchange programme for naval staff. In November 1967 a South African naval unit visited Buenos Aires and joint exercises were held.[3] During his visits to Brazil (to inaugurate the Rio–Cape Town air service) and to Buenos Aires, the South African foreign minister, Hilgard Müller, constantly stressed the need for a common approach to South Atlantic defence in the face of the growing Soviet threat.[4] In an interview in Buenos Aires he stated that a South Atlantic pact between Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, the United States and South Africa was a likely development, although this was later denied.[5] Despite this denial, together with others from Brazil and Argentina, speculation continued and was further fuelled by the nine day visit to South Africa in May 1969 of the Argentinian naval chiefs of staff.[6]

In 1976 there was a renewal of speculation about South Africa's alleged involvement in 'SATO' following the visit of the head of the South African navy, Vice Admiral James Johnson, to Brazil and Argentina during the annual UNITAS naval exercises between the United States and several Latin American countries. In an

2. See David Fig, 'The Atlantic Connection: Growing Links Between South Africa and Latin America', in *Britain and Latin America* (London: Latin America Bureau, 1979), pp. 92–109.
3. 'Argentina and South Africa plan stronger trade and defence ties', *Christian Science Monitor*, 18 January 1968.
4. 'Red peril seen in South Atlantic', *Christian Science Monitor*, 12 April 1969.
5. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 April 1969.
6. 'Red flag off the Cape of Good Hope', *Daily Telegraph*, 16 May 1969.

interview in Rio de Janeiro, Admiral Johnson declared: 'The Communists are turning the area into a Soviet lake . . . On any day you can see 30–35 Soviet ships pass by here and there's nothing we can do. We are all alone'.[7] More recently, the presence (albeit unofficial) of South African representatives at a conference held in Buenos Aires in May 1981 to discuss the possible formation of a South Atlantic pact has kept the issue of South African involvement alive.[8] South African concern for South Atlantic security and its desire to use the concern felt by others as a means of overcoming its own diplomatic isolation has thus been a major theme of recent South African foreign policy. However, despite Pretoria's interest in the idea of 'SATO' and closer military cooperation with Latin America, the attitudes of the other members of such a grouping to South African involvement have ranged, as we shall see, from ambivalence to outright hostility.

Argentina

Of the countries of Latin America it is Argentina which has most frequently been linked with the various rumours and reports of a South Atlantic pact. As early as 1956 Argentina responded to a recommendation by the Inter-American Defense Board that naval cooperation in the South Atlantic should be improved, and in July of that year sent invitations to Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay for 'preparatory talks to study the bases for an organization for the defence of the South Atlantic'.[9] After lengthy stalling by Brazil, a conference did take place in Buenos Aires in May 1957, although little progress was made towards the formation of any formal pact or alliance.[10] I have already noted the various moves in the late 1960s towards closer military and political ties between Pretoria and Buenos Aires and since that time there have been regular reports that Argentina, and particularly the Argentinian navy, was actively promoting the idea of 'SATO' behind the scenes whilst officially denying any such intention. In 1976 the Argentinian foreign minister, Rear Admiral César Guzzetti, expressed his country's grave concern 'that the South Atlantic might be the object of a modification . . . that could endanger our sea communications'.[11] Commenting on the visit of the head of the Brazilian navy, Azevedo Henning, to Buenos Aires in April 1976, the Argentinian paper *La Nación* emphasized the concern in the armed forces over the growing Soviet threat in the South Atlantic and the belief that this threat could only be effectively countered by joint action and military cooperation between Argentina, Brazil and South Africa.[12] Similarly, *La Prensa* in an editorial in 1980 on Soviet expansionism in the region called for better cooperation between the countries involved and, pointing to a recent visit by the United States Secretary of the Navy, declared: 'There does exist

7. 'Talk grows of South Atlantic pact aimed at Russia', *International Herald Tribune*, 30 November 1976.
8. 'Pact meeting: Mystery over South African delegates', *Rand Daily Mail*, 26 May 1981; 'South Atlantic pact takes shape in Argentina', *Financial Times*, 26 May 1981. For a survey of South Africa's position, see Admiral H. H. Biermann, 'The South African Response' in Patrick Wall, ed., *The Southern Oceans and the Security of the Free World* (London: Stacey International, 1977).
9. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 22 May 1957.
10. *New York Times*, 12, 14 May 1957. Because of the limited results of this conference, there is some debate as to whether the *Pacto Atlantico Sur* of 1957 should be included in a survey of proposals for a 'SATO'. Yet although the 1957 pact was concerned only with training exercises, it is clear that the original Argentinian proposals envisaged a far more extensive system of multilateral defence for the South Atlantic.
11. 'SATO is revived', *Observer Foreign News Service*, 1 December 1976.
12. *La Nación*, 8 April 1976. Quoted in Hayes, 'Der Südatlantik', p. 592.

8

a will for mutual support and cooperation in the defence of the South Atlantic . . . the Soviet presence in West Africa and in the South Atlantic in general must be given a strategic response in order to preserve our national security'.[13] Indeed in 1980 speculation increased significantly, due partly to the changed attitude of Washington and partly to the improvement in relations between Brazil and Argentina following President Figueiredos's visit in May of that year. At the time of this visit the Argentinian foreign minister, Carlos Washington Pastor, spoke of this rapprochement as laying the basis for 'an alliance against world communism' and specifically mentioned the possibility of a South Atlantic defence pact.[14] It is thus no coincidence that the conference on 'SATO' in May 1981 was held in Buenos Aires.[15]

There has thus been a considerable body of opinion within Argentina, both official and unofficial, that has favoured the creation of a South Atlantic pact. The basis of this opinion can be found in the fervent anti-communism of the Argentinian military and perhaps also in the common interests and perspectives of Argentina and South Africa generated by their pariah status. It can also be related to the strongly held geopolitical views of many military officers. As John Child has pointed out, if there is one part of the world where geopolitics is a flourishing subject, it is in southern Latin America.[16] Apart from, and in some ways in response to, the obsession with Brazil and the potential Brazilian threat, this geopolitical tradition has a strong maritime emphasis, highlighting the significance of the South Atlantic and the need to safeguard Argentina's claims in Antarctica.[17] It sees Argentina as having special responsibility for the control of several key exit and entry points to both the South Atlantic and Antarctica. According to this view, Argentina's future lies in the integration of all its national territories and in the exploitation of its ocean resources. Only by doing so can it recover its lost status and overcome the acute sense of internal and external vulnerability that has characterized the country's recent foreign policy.[18]

Yet although this kind of thinking is significant and reflects serious national concerns, Argentina's attitude to the South Atlantic must be viewed within the context of the country's overall foreign policy. There is not room here to attempt a detailed survey of Argentinian foreign policy, especially given its complexity and volatility.[19] It is worthwhile, however, to highlight those factors which tended to work against any Argentinian involvement in a South Atlantic pact.

First, the stress on the Soviet threat in the South Atlantic and the willingness to cooperate with Brazil is very much a viewpoint associated with the Argentinian navy. The army has generally been far more concerned with the perceived threat of

13. *La Prensa*, 5 July 1980.
14. 'Bündnisstrategien im südlichen Latein Amerika: Ansätze zu einem Südatlantikpakt', *Neue Züricher Zeitung*, 14 September 1980.
15. *Financial Times*, 28 May 1981.
16. See John Child, 'Geopolitical Thinking in Latin America', *Latin American Research Review*, 1979, Vol. XIV, No. 2, pp. 89–111.
17. For details of Argentina's claims in Antarctica see Eduardo M.ª de la Cruz, 'Derechos Argentinos sobre la Antárticda y las pretensiones ajenas', *Estrategia*, 43/44, 1976–7, pp. 60–71.
18. See Juan E. Guglialmelli, 'Argentina: Política Nacional y Política de Fronteras', *Estrategia*, 37/38, 1975–6, pp. 5–21.
19. For a survey of Argentina's foreign policy see Edward S. Milenky, *Argentina's Foreign Policies* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview, 1978); also John Finan, 'Argentina' in Harold Davis and Larman C. Wilson, eds, *Latin American Foreign Policies: An Analysis* (London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975).

Brazilian expansionism and even a cursory reading of the many books and articles devoted to this theme makes it clear that this 'threat' is seen to exist on both land and sea: Argentina's maritime pretensions are as much threatened by Brazil as by the Soviet Union.[20]

Secondly, there is the wider problem of relations with Brazil. Since the late 1970s there has been a very significant improvement in relations and the elements of cooperation in what Helio Jaguaribe has called a relationship of 'conflictive cooperation' have certainly come to the fore.[21] Moreover, the erosion of the balance of power between the two countries makes it hard to see what Argentina could hope to gain from a return to confrontation. Nevertheless the situation remains very fluid and the legacy of mutual suspicion must, at the very least, serve to complicate any moves towards a formal military agreement over the South Atlantic.

Thirdly, superficial ideological common interests have often obscured the extent to which Argentina and the United States must be seen as historic rivals. In a sense recent tensions over the Falklands have only added to an already very long list of difficulties and conflicts between the two countries. Argentina's globalist pretensions, its affinities with Europe, its pioneering advocacy of the principles of non-intervention and the juridical equality of states all made Argentina a traditional opponent of Pan-Americanism and hemispheric solidarity under United States leadership. Argentina remained neutral in both world wars.[22] It delayed ratification of the Rio Pact for four years and the Charter of the Organization of American States for eight. In 1954 it abstained from supporting the US-sponsored Declaration of Solidarity for the Preservation of the Political Integrity of American States against International Communism and again in 1962 over the resolution expelling Cuba from the OAS. The postwar period has seen frequent disputes over trade issues, foreign investment, policy towards Cuba, nuclear energy and human rights.[23]

Fourthly, there is the question of relations with the Soviet Union—a crucial point if we are talking about Argentinian involvement in a pact aimed at countering Soviet expansionism. Argentina was the first Latin American country to send a representative to Soviet Russia and ever since has tried to maintain an independent position towards both superpowers. Perón established formal diplomatic relations in 1946 and in 1953 the first trade treaty was signed. Economic ties were significantly strengthened with the signing of a three year trade agreement in 1971 and, politically, the two countries were moving closer together in the two years preceding the coup of 1976.[24] Despite the virulent anti-communism of the military regimes that have governed since 1976, these relations have continued to develop. The Soviet Union has become the largest purchaser of Argentinian grain and meat exports; the Soviet Union and Cuba have blocked all discussions of Argentina's human rights record in the UN Commission on Human Rights; Soviet turbines are installed in

20. See for example, Juan E. Guglialmelli, 'Golbery do Couto y Silva, el "destino manifiesto" brasileño y el atlántico sur', *Estrategia*, 39, March–April 1976, pp. 5–22.
21. See Helio Jaguaribe, 'El Brasil y America Latina', *Estudios Internacionales*, Vol. 8, No. 29, Jan–March 1975; also Carlos Moneta and Rolf Wichmann, 'Brazil and the Southern Cone', in Wayne Selcher, ed., *Brazil in the International System: The Rise of a Middle Power* (Boulder, Colarado: Westview, 1981).
22. Alone among Latin American states Argentina maintained relations with the Axis powers until 1944 and then made only a formal break.
23. See Milenky, *Argentina's Foreign Policies*, Chapter 4.
24. Milenky, *Argentina's Foreign Policies*, pp. 153–7.

18

the Salto Grande hydroelectric project and the Soviet Union has assisted Argentina in fishing, oceanography and offshore oil exploration.[25]

Edward Milenky has suggested that Argentina's foreign policy can be seen as a series of alternations between what he calls a 'statist-nationalist' foreign policy and a 'classic liberal' foreign policy.[26] The first views Argentina as a non-aligned, strictly Latin American, developing country and can be seen in the long tradition of independence and universalism: in Perón's proclamation of the 'Third Position', equidistant between the United States and the Soviet Union; in the 'developmentalism' of the Frondizi period (1958–62); in the ideological pluralism of the Lanusse government (1970–3); and in the revived Perónist foreign policy of 1973–6. The second views Argentina as a nearly developed, Western, Christian nation and can be seen in the strongly pro-Western and violently anti-communist tendencies of Onganía (1966–70) and the regimes that have ruled since 1976. It is no surprise to find that speculation about Argentinian involvement in a South Atlantic pact and the promotion of closer ties with South Africa should have been prominent during these two latter periods. The important point is, however, that both these foreign policies reflect pressures that are continually present in Argentinian politics. Thus, however much a regime may speak of the need for a 'crusade against world communism', such rhetoric can never tell the whole story. Anti-communism may guide foreign policy, for example in the case of Argentina's involvement in Central America, but will not necessarily do so, as witnessed, for example, by the decision to ignore the US grain embargo after the invasion of Afghanistan or the move to expand relations with China.[27]

Argentina, then, certainly has a strong and long-standing interest in the security of the South Atlantic. Moreover, in contrast to Brazil, Argentina has shown far more interest in developing a formal pact or treaty and in seeking South African participation. Yet the imperatives of economic development, the force of nationalist feeling and the continued suspicion of both Brazil and the United States have all served to complicate the possibility of Argentina's involvement in a South Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Brazil

Brazil is the other country in Latin America which has a major stake in developments in the South Atlantic. Brazil's externally oriented development model has meant that foreign trade and the expansion of exports have been of crucial importance to the national economy and in 1977 over 66 per cent of Brazil's exports had to cross the Atlantic by sea.[28] The importance of the South Atlantic is increased still further by Brazil's heavy dependence on imported oil. The country currently imports between 80 and 85 per cent of its petroleum needs and despite efforts at diversification the major part still comes from the Middle East via the Cape.

Since the late 1960s Brazil has made increasing efforts to use its ocean space and resources more effectively. The country's merchant marine and shipbuilding capability has increased dramatically: the merchant marine increased from below

25. In 1972 total trade amounted to £15 million. By 1978 Argentina's exports to the Soviet Union had risen to £242 million. See 'Trade drives Argentina east', *Financial Times*, 7 April 1980, and Robert S. Leiken, 'Eastern Winds in Latin America', *Foreign Policy*, No. 42, Spring 1981, pp. 97–8.
26. Milenky, *Argentina's Foreign Policies*, pp. 1–20.
27. See *Le Monde*, 10 June 1980.
28. FUNCEX, 'Destino das Exportacoes Brasileiras'.

1 million tons in 1967 with an average age of 10 years to over 5 million tons in 1977 with an average age of 4 years.[29] In 1970 Brazil extended its territorial sea to 200 miles and has conducted an extremely active diplomacy at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. It has developed offshore oil; its annual fish catch ranks about 18th in the world and in 1968 it established an Interministerial Commission on the Exploration and Utilization of the Sea Bed and Ocean (CIEFMAR).[30] In addition, Brazil has maintained a consistent, although discreet, interest in Antarctica and in 1975 received adherent status to the Antarctic Treaty, emphasizing both its security requirements and its wish to participate in the exploration of Antarctic natural resources.[31]

In the light of these factors and given Brazil's geographical position it is hardly surprising that the Brazilian military should have long viewed the South Atlantic and the west coast of Africa as an area vital to the country's national security. As General Golbery do Couto y Silva, Brazil's leading geopolitician, wrote in 1957:

> We must take it upon ourselves vigilantly to observe what takes place along the whole west coast of Africa, for it is incumbent upon us by self-interest and even tradition to preserve it from domination by aggressive imperialist forces.[32]

More recently, military writers have sought to go beyond this stress on the defensive importance of the South Atlantic and to propose that Brazil should develop a more dynamic role in the area. Thus Vice Admiral Hilton Berutti Augusto Moreira wrote in 1972:

> To provide Brazil with adequate maritime power and to take maximum advantage of the country's geo-strategic position are essential decisions for the attainment of the national objective of rapid development and for support for a high degree of effective national security.[33]

Another leading strategist, General Meira Mattos, proposed in 1977 that Brazil should develop a new, far more ambitious 'South Atlantic Strategy' based on a large increase in the country's air and naval capabilities.[34]

Again not surprisingly, the victory of the MPLA in Angola, the continued presence of Cuban troops in Africa and the growth of Soviet naval influence in the South Atlantic all served to increase the concern of the Brazilian military for the region's security. In December 1975 the navy minister, Azevedo Henning, emphasized the dangers of Soviet military expansionism in the South Atlantic in a widely reported speech to the *Escola Superior de Guerra* (the Brazilian Higher War College).[35] In 1976 an article in the college's journal *Segurança e Desenvolvimento* pointed to two types of threat:

29. See Michael Morris, *International Politics and the Sea: The Case of Brazil* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview, 1979), p. 276.
30. Michael Morris, *International Politics and the Sea*, pp. 25–6.
31. For a discussion of Brazil's position on Antarctica see Therezinha de Castro, *Rumo à Antártica* (Rio de Janeiro: Livraria Freitas Bastos, 1976); also Carlos J. Moneta, 'Antarctica, Latin America and the International System in the 1980s: Towards a New Antarctic Order', *Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs*, Vol. 33, No. 1, February 1981, pp. 29–68, and M. J. Peterson, 'Antarctica: The Last Great Land Rush', *International Organisation*, Vol. 34, No. 3, Summer 1980, pp. 377–403.
32. Golbery do Couto y Silva, *Aspectos Geopolíticos do Brasil*, (Rio de Janeiro: Jose Olympio, 1957), pp. 27–8.
33. Hilton Berutti Augusto Moreira, 'O Brasil e suas responsibilidades no Atlântico Sul', *Segurança e Desenvolvimento*, No. 169, 1972, p. 103.
34. Carlos de Meira Mattos, *A Geopolitica e as Projecões do Poder* (Rio de Janeiro: Jose Olympio, 1977) esp. chapters VIII and IX.
35. *Veja*, 31 December 1975.

> In times of peace: A higher level of ideological penetration and greater infiltration of agitators mainly via diplomatic and commercial missions . . . In a war situation: the transformation of Angola into a communist country represents a very considerable increase in the aggressive power that can be levelled against South America in general and Brazil, because of its geographical position, in particular.[36]

This line of thinking was vigorously taken up by the conservative press and together with a number of official visits of Brazilian and Argentinian naval chiefs, fuelled speculation through 1976 that a South Atlantic pact was in the making.[37] Since then there have been frequent and cordial naval visits and exercises, both bilateral and multilateral. In 1980, during a visit to Buenos Aires, the Brazilian navy minister, da Fonseca, stated:

> In reality the greatest danger that faces us comes from outside our continent and we must unite to confront it . . . in no other moment was the unity of the nations of our continent and particularly of our navies as important as it is now.[38]

Yet despite Brazil's interests in the South Atlantic and despite military concern over South Atlantic security, Brazil has consistently opposed the formation of a regional defence pact, particularly one involving South Africa. In response to the Argentinian proposals of 1956, Brazil insisted that any agreement on improved defence must be within the Rio Treaty, that United States participation was essential and that no new alliance or pact was necessary.[39] This position, supported by the United States, effectively undermined the original Argentinian proposals for a new strong regional defence pact anchored on Buenos Aires.[40]

Following the military coup of 1964, the possibility of Brazilian participation in a South Atlantic pact appeared to increase. The ideology of the new regime laid heavy stress on the importance of national security and anti-communism, together with a close pro-American alignment. In keeping with the idea of 'ideological frontiers', a Brazilian general commanded the forces which intervened in the Dominican Republic in 1965. It was this kind of atmosphere, together with the fact that South Africa was at the time Brazil's most important trading partner in Africa, which led to speculation of closer military cooperation between the two countries in 1969 during the visit of the South African foreign minister, Hilgard Müller. This speculation was strengthened by the Brazilian government's support for Salazarist Portugal and became linked with the idea of a Luso-Brazilian Community, a rather vague and romantic attempt to join Brazil, Portugal and the Portuguese territories in Africa in a kind of commonwealth.[41] In 1969 it was reported that Brazil nearly

36. 'Atlântico Sul: Tres Visões de uma Estrategia', *Segurança e Desenvolvimento*, No. 164, 1976, p. 136.
37. See, for instance, *O Estado de Sao Paulo*, 24 September 1976; *Jornal do Brasil*, 28 September 1976.
38. *Jornal do Brasil*, 27 July 1980.
39. *Neue Züricher Zeitung*, 28 May 1957.
40. Despite Brazil's position, the *Pacto Atlantico Sur*, signed in 1957, embodied agreements on training, the coordination of naval planning and cooperation on signalling and intelligence. See *New York Times*, 21 May 1957.
41. For a detailed discussion of the Luso-Brazilian Community, see Wayne Selcher, *The Afro-Asian Dimension of Brazilian Foreign Policy* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1974), pp. 61–5.

took part in naval exercises with Portugal and South Africa.[42] Yet despite the rumours, nothing concrete emerged and in July 1969 Brazil issued a formal note in the United Nations, denying any involvement in a South Atlantic pact. Nor did Brazil take up Caetano's proposals for greater Brazilian involvement in west Africa and the South Atlantic under the aegis of a Luso-Brazilian Community.[43]

Since the early 1970s Brazilian hostility to the idea of a South Atlantic pact has continued to harden. Faced with the twin pressures of the need to expand exports and, particularly after 1973, to secure oil supplies, Brazilian foreign policy has sought to move away from the close pro-American, narrowly anti-communist line that characterized the mid-1960s. Flexibility, pragmatism, independence and diversification have become the central themes of the country's foreign policy. Two aspects of this policy are relevant here. First, there is the switch in Brazil's Africa policy and the decision to concentrate on developing relations with black Africa and to minimize all formal contacts with South Africa. In November 1975, despite misgivings from within certain parts of the military, Brazil became the first non-communist country to recognize the MPLA government in Angola.[44] Since then Brazil has worked hard (and successfully) to expand economic ties in Africa, particularly with Nigeria, Angola and Algeria. Indeed, looking to the future, the Angola–Nigeria–Brazil triangle holds many interesting possibilities for political, economic and even military cooperation across the South Atlantic.[45] Secondly, as with Argentina, Brazil's economic relations with the Soviet Union have expanded steadily through the 1970s and in July 1981 a US$5 billion, five year trade agreement was signed in Moscow.[46]

In the light of this policy, officials have repeatedly denied any Brazilian interest in a South Atlantic pact. In September 1976 the foreign minister, Antonio Azeredo Silveira, stated: 'There is not the slightest possibility of establishing a collective security system in the South Atlantic, especially with the awkward and unwanted presence of South Africa'.[47] When such a pact was proposed in October 1977 by the Uruguayan admiral Hugo Marquez, Brasilia issued an immediate denial.[48] In an interview in 1979, the navy minister da Fonseca dismissed the necessity of a South Atlantic pact.[49] For Brazil talk of a 'SATO' is, to quote a recent statement, 'inopportune, superfluous and dangerous'.[50] Inopportune, because the Brazilian

42. It is worth pointing out that these moves coincided with Portugal's efforts to draw NATO into its colonial war as part of wider proposals to improve the security of the South Atlantic. See Christopher Coker, 'The Western Alliance and Africa', *African Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 324, July 1982, pp. 324–8.
43. See *New York Times*, 14 July 1969; *Le Monde*, 13 July 1969.
44. The decision to recognize the MPLA was apparently taken without the unanimous approval of the *Conselho Nacional de Segurança*; see *Jornal do Brasil*, 2 July 1979.
45. See Tom Forrest, 'Brazil and Africa: Geopolitics, Trade and Technology in the South Atlantic', *African Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 322, January 1982, pp. 3–20. For a Nigerian view of the 'SATO' question, see A. Bolaji Akinyemi, 'The Need for an African South Atlantic Organization' *Nigerian Forum*, Vol. 1 1981, pp. 125–130, quoted in Wayne Selcher, 'Dilemas de Política en las Relaciones de Brasil con Africa: Ejemplo de Obstáculos en las Relaciones Sur-Sur', *Foro Internacional*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1, jul-set 1982, p. 36.
46. For details of this agreement see Jim Brooke, 'Dateline Brazil: Southern Superpower', *Foreign Policy*, Fall 1981, p. 178.
47. Quoted in Hayes, *Der Südatlantik*, p. 593. Brazil's pragmatic approach to diplomacy has meant that, despite the official switch in its African policy, discreet although highly profitable ties with South Africa have continued and in 1978–9 South African exports to Brazil were larger than those of any other African country.
48. *Jornal do Brasil*, 6, 7 October 1977.
49. 'Não é preciso um pacto no Atlântico Sul', *Veja*, 25 April 1979.
50. Reported in *Le Monde*, 19 August 1981.

government does not believe that the level of threat can warrant the formation of a new defence pact; superfluous, because the security of the region is already covered by the Rio Treaty;[51] and dangerous, because such a pact would needlessly militarize the South Atlantic and escalate superpower rivalry in the region.

On the one hand, then, there remains a significant body of opinion within the Brazilian military that would tend to favour an improved system of South Atlantic defence. Moreover, speculation about Brazilian involvement, even if misplaced, does underline the level of Brazilian interest in the region. On the other hand, the thrust of Brazilian foreign policy, at least since 1973, has been against the formation of any new pact or alliance. It is a foreign policy based primarily on the need to maintain maximum diplomatic flexibility and it is widely felt in Brasilia that a return to cold war politics would severely threaten the country's room to manoeuvre.[52] Yet although Brazilian participation in a 'SATO' is highly unlikely, Brazil remains a country with the capacity unilaterally to alter the bases of South Atlantic politics. Up to now it has chosen to maintain a low profile. Defence spending has been low and the navy has only a limited deep-water capability.[53] Nevertheless, a modernization programme is under way and a naval base is being constructed on the island of Trindade, some 700 miles east of Rio de Janeiro. These factors, together with Brazil's increasingly sophisticated armaments industry, clearly lay the basis for a more dynamic role in the South Atlantic, should a future Brazilian government so choose.

The United States

For most of the postwar period United States defence planning paid only slight attention to the South Atlantic region.[54] Indeed for Latin America as a whole, US security doctrine assumed that the level of external threat to the area would remain low and that hemispheric solidarity behind Washington's leadership could be maintained. For these reasons the inter-American security system that emerged during and immediately after the end of the Second World War was a relatively loose one. Security relations were formalized in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, or Rio Pact, signed in 1947, which has been supplemented over the years by bilateral military assistance treaties, and in the Charter of the Organization of American States. Yet there has never been any kind of permanent military organization. As Gordon Connell Smith points out, 'The Inter-American Defense Board was established for political rather than military reasons'.[55] Subsequently, it has acquired no operational significance and has no forces under its direct command. Moreover, the two occasions when inter-American military

51. At the San Jose de Costa Rica Conference in 1975, the eastern security limit of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (the Rio Treaty) was fixed at 20 degrees West of Greenwich.

52. In keeping with this policy, military ties with the United States have been progressively reduced. In 1977 the military assistance agreements were ended and, more recently, Brazil withdrew from the annual UNITAS naval exercises.

53. See Max G. Manwaring, 'Brazilian Military Power: A Capability Analysis', in Selcher, ed., *Brazil in the International System: The Rise of a Middle Power.*

54. During the Second World War the north-east of Brazil and the Atlantic narrows had been included within the US strategic defence perimeter, the so-called 'Quarter-Sphere Defense'. Following the end of the war, however, the Latin American region was effectively demoted in strategic terms. See John Child, 'Strategic Concepts in Latin America: An Update', *Inter-American Economic Affairs*, No. 34, Summer 1980, pp. 61–82.

55. Gordon Connell Smith, *The Inter-American System* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1966), p. 122.

measures have been taken, regarding Cuba and the Dominican Republic, served in many ways to impair the possibility of future cooperation and to underline Latin American concern that all inter-American defence arrangements could at least potentially be used by the United States to further its hegemonic aspirations.

Cooperation over the South Atlantic has been even more limited. In 1959 the Inter-American Defense Board approved a Plan for the Defense of Inter-American Maritime Traffic, from which the South Atlantic Maritime Area Command (CAMUS) was created. CAMUS is made up of representatives of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay with the overall command alternating between Brazilian and Argentinian naval officers. The aim of CAMUS is to provide an integrated command in wartime and its activities have included the Atlantic convoy and communications exercises. In addition, since the early 1960s, the United States navy based in Puerto Rico has participated with the navies of Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia and Uruguay in the regular UNITAS exercises. Elsewhere in the South Atlantic, the United States military presence has been minimal. It has no naval or air force bases on the west or southern coasts of Africa. It has maintained a military attaché in its Pretoria embassy but US naval ships have not been allowed to dock in South Africa since 1967.

However, given the low level of perceived threat to the area, it is easy to see why there were no major United States initiatives during the 1950s or 1960s for a more extensive system of South Atlantic defence. It is true that the Cuban crisis increased Washington's concern over possible communist advances in Latin America; yet the Cuban crisis—together with the Congo crisis on the other side of the Atlantic—also demonstrated the inability of the Soviet Union to project its power over long distances.

Since the late 1960s this situation has changed significantly and the South Atlantic has begun to figure far more prominently on the list of United States security concerns. First, there is the increasing importance of the South Atlantic shipping lanes.[56] The argument here has become familiar and is based on the fact that since the mid 1960s an ever higher percentage of imports to the United States and Western Europe has been transported around the southern tip of Africa. The level of usage is around 2,300 ships a month, of which 600 are oil tankers. Secondly, the perceived threat to this shipping has increased because of the dramatic growth in Soviet naval capabilities.[57] The Soviet Union, which in Stalin's time possessed only a coastal navy, now has more surface ships and more submarines than the United States. The Soviet navy first appeared off west African waters in 1969 after Ghana seized two Russian trawlers. In 1970, following an amphibious attack by the Portuguese on Conakry, the Soviet Union sent a small naval contingent to the region, thus creating what has since become the West Africa Patrol.[58] Since 1970,

56. For a typical statement of the strategic importance of the South Atlantic, see Robert J. Hanks, *The Cape Route: Imperilled Western Lifeline* (Cambridge, Mass.: Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, 1981) and Stewart Menaul, 'The Security of the Southern Oceans: Southern Africa the Key', *NATO's Fifteen Nations*, April–May, 1972.

57. See for example, M. MccGwire and J. McDonnell, eds., *Soviet Naval Influence: Domestic and Foreign Dimensions* (New York: Praeger, 1977); Bradford Dismukes and James McConnell, eds., *Soviet Naval Diplomacy* (New York: Pergamon, 1979); US Senate, Committee on Commerce, *Soviet Oceans Development* (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1976).

58. See David K. Hall, 'Naval Diplomacy in West African Waters', in Stephen S. Kaplan, *Diplomacy of Power: Soviet Armed Forces as a Political Instrument* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1981).

[illegible]

the Soviet Union has also been making qualitative changes in the types of naval vessels, particularly submarines, entering Cuban ports;[59] and finally, it has developed a sophisticated surveillance system over the South Atlantic from bases in Cuba, Guinea and Angola.[60] Thirdly, United States concern has grown because of the rise to power in Angola of the MPLA and the continuing political instability in southern Africa. The logistical support provided to the MPLA, the arms shipments and, above all, the transport of 12,000 Cuban regular soldiers are all used to support the thesis that the South Atlantic is well on the way to becoming a Soviet lake. Finally, in addition to these three major factors, one should add the growing awareness in Washington of the importance of undersea resources and of maintaining open access to Antarctica.[61]

For most of the 1970s, however, these increased security concerns have only indirectly and intermittently been translated into actual policy initiatives for strengthening South Atlantic defence. In the Nixon/Kissinger period it is possible to discern the beginnings of what might have been a more tightly-knit system of South Atlantic defence. Both South Africa and Brazil were viewed under the Nixon Doctrine as strong regional powers which should be encouraged to play a larger part in the defence of Western interests. Yet in practice the Nixon administration did little to promote a more active South African role in South Atlantic defence and even upheld President Johnson's ban on the sale of naval reconnaissance aircraft to Pretoria.[62] Similarly, the Kissinger–Silveira Memorandum of Understanding of 1976 did little to overcome the growing difficulties in US–Brazilian relations. Under President Carter the prospects for an American inspired initiative on South Atlantic security receded still further. Continued indecision towards Angola; antipathy to South Africa; worsening relations with Brazil over trade, nuclear proliferation and human rights; serious estrangement from Buenos Aires: all these factors combined to ensure that Washington did not respond to the calls in 1976 for the formation of a South Atlantic pact that were being voiced in various parts of Latin America.

With the advent of the Reagan administration, however, it appeared that the concern of US defence planners over the South Atlantic would be far more closely reflected in actual policy. An improvement in relations with Buenos Aires, Pretoria and Brasilia became a major priority. The dominant concern of American foreign policy became the country's strategic capability *vis-à-vis* the Soviet Union and the need to build up strong regimes in the Third World to counter Soviet adventurism. This triumph of the globalist viewpoint and the obvious enthusiasm of certain members of the new administration for closer relations with various Latin American military regimes fuelled speculation that a South Atlantic pact might soon emerge. Closer military cooperation with Latin America was viewed as essential because, to quote Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United States is 'being surrounded by a ring of Soviet bases on and around our southern and eastern borders'.[63] In 1980 a top Reagan aide, General Daniel Graham, was reported to have said in Buenos Aires 'that

59. See Jorge I. Domínguez, 'The United States and its Regional Security Interests: The Caribbean, Central and South America', *Daedalus*, Vol. 109, No. 4, Fall 1980, p. 199.
60. See Worth H. Bagley, 'Sea Power and Western Security: The Next Decade', *Adelphi Papers*, No. 139, 1977.
61. For a recent view of the increasing emphasis placed on strategic seabed resources by the US Department of Defense, see Leigh S. Ratiner, 'The Law of the Sea: Crossroads for US Policy', *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 60, No. 5, Summer 1982, pp. 1,006–1,021.
62. See Coker, 'The Western Alliance and Africa', p. 329.
63. Quoted in Leiken, 'Eastern Winds in Latin America', p. 96.

Mr Reagan would favour a NATO-like treaty linking the militaristic nations of South America with South Africa'.[64] The successive visits to Buenos Aires in 1981 of General Vernon Walters, General Edward Meyer, General Richard Ingram and Admiral Harry Train clearly pointed to the American desire to establish closer military ties.[65] Similarly, in his speech in Brasilia in August 1981, Assistant Secretary Thomas Enders stressed his concern for the security of the South Atlantic. This concern, together with the need to exclude foreign intervention in the Caribbean and preoccupation with Soviet activities in Afghanistan and Poland, were proclaimed as factors which would draw the United States and Brazil closer together.[66]

Yet despite this change in United States policy, nothing has materialized and in recent months the prospects for a South Atlantic pact have once again receded. Whilst the United States administration would still like to develop South Africa as a cold war bulwark, the lack of political progress within South Africa and continuing difficulties over Namibia have made it far harder to draw closer to Pretoria than many in the Reagan team had hoped. Similarly, Brazil remains determined to keep the cold war out of the South Atlantic and to continue with its wide ranging and increasingly independent foreign policy. Moreover, although many of the quarrels of the Carter period have been settled, important difficulties remain in US–Brazilian relations.[67] Finally, even before the Falklands invasion, American overtures to Buenos Aires appeared to have met with only limited success. In April 1981 the Argentinian foreign minister, Oscar Camilión, reaffirmed Argentina's independence of United States foreign policy and declared his country's intention of continuing to develop its trade with the Soviet Union. He also stated that Argentinian participation in joint naval exercises with the United States did not imply a commitment to collaborate in the defence of the South Atlantic sea lanes.[65]

Although it is still too early to assess recent American attempts to repair the damage done to US–Latin American relations by Washington's support for Britain over the Falklands, two points can be made. Firstly, that, as President Reagan's recent visit to Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Honduras showed, the re-establishment of closer relations with Latin America remains a high priority. Secondly, that, although increasing attention is being paid to the region's growing economic and financial problems, there has, as yet, been little deviation from the strongly ideological and geopolitical perspective that has characterized the Reagan administration's Latin American policy.

Britain

Up until the recent conflict with Argentina, Britain had maintained an extremely low profile in the South Atlantic. Diplomatically, Latin America does not appear to have ranked particularly high on any government's list of priorities. Militarily, British presence in the region all but ended with the cancellation of the Simonstown Agreement with South Africa in 1974 and with the continuing reductions in the Royal Navy's long range capabilities. Yet despite the limitations of official policy, there has been a significant body of opinion within Britain which has consistently

64. *New York Times*, 20 April 1980.
65. *Le Monde*, 24 July 1981.
66. *Le Monde*, 19 August 1981.
67. See Albert Fishlow, 'The United States and Brazil: the Case of the Missing Relationship', *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 60, No. 4, Spring 1982, pp. 904–23.
68. See Charles Maechling, 'The Argentinian Pariah', *Foreign Policy*, No. 45, Winter 1981–82, p. 81.

Reagan unaware of UK fish move

Buenos Aires – President Reagan told President Alfonsin on Monday night that the US had no prior knowledge of the British decision to establish a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone around the Falklands, an Argentine Government spokesman said yesterday (Eduardo Cue writes).

In a 10-minute telephone conversation from California where he was campaigning, Mr Reagan restated the American preference for a negoatiated settlement.

Señor Alfonsin briefed President Reagan on the latest crisis and assured him that Argentina did not plan any military action in response.

"It pleases me to hear those words," Mr Reagan was reported to have replied.

Señor Alfonsin confirmed yesterday he would visit the US later this month to deliver a series of previously scheduled university lectures, but it is not known whether he will meet Mr Reagan.

TIMES 5 NOV 86 pag 7

Alfonsín briefing for Europe

From Diana Geddes
Paris

Señor Jorge Sabato, the Argentine junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived here to explain to Europe President Alfonsín'sposition over Britain's decision to impose a 150-mile fisheries conservations zone around the Falklands.

Señor Sabato met Argentine diplomats in Geneva and is due back in Paris today for talks with French foreign ministers, before flying to Italy, Holland, Belgium, West Germany and Spain.

His tour comes shortly before the United Nations debate on the annual Argentine resolution on the future of the Falklands. Last year France, which was the first European nation to give Britain its support in the 1982 Falklands war, disappointed London by voting for the Argentine resolution for the first time.

Until then, France had always abstained. The Socialist government of the day pointed out that the resolution was more moderate than in the past, notably omitting any reference to sovereignty, and explained that it had always been in favour of a negotiated settlement to the dispute between Britain and Argentina.

It is not clear what line the present right-wing Government will take this time particularly in view of the strong views expressed by M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, on the need for self-determination to settle the future of France's own overseas territories. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that the Government was waiting to see the text of this year's Argentine resolution.

President Alfonsín telephoned President Mitterrand last week to discuss the fishing dispute. The French President is reported to have adopted a non-committal attitude, simply speaking of France's desire to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

TIMES 4 NOV 86 pag 10

Peru backs B. Aires in Falklands row

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

President Alan Garcia of Peru flew into Buenos Aires yesterday to support Argentina in its opposition to Britain's Falkland Islands fishing zone.

The Peruvian leader was due to stay less than eight hours, but his arrival was nevertheless marked by signs of nervousness within the Argentine Government. Unusually, his arrival was not broadcast on the national television network.

Diplomatic observers said that President Garcia's brand of nationalist populism might make it more difficult for the Argentine Government to distance itself from a domestic over-reaction to the British move.

President Garcia said on arrival that Peru "supports and will support" Argentina's sovereignty claim to the Falklands. He pledged help "over and beyond" anything Argentina requests.

He also claimed that international laws giving states maritime rights 200 miles from their coasts "cannot be converted into an instrument of provocation or used to the detriment of the sovereignty of our countries."

President Garcia appears to have invited himself during a telephone conversation with President Raul Alfonsin on Thursday.

One commentator suggested that the Peruvian leader hopes to "dress himself" in the politics of the Falklands dispute as next Sunday's elections approach at home. Another said that he would want something from President Alfonsin in return for his support.

Argentina's diplomatic initiative against the fishing exclusion zone was stepped up with the release of a statement by the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay after a five-hour meeting at the Uruguyan resort of Punta del Este on Sunday.

The ministers backed a call by President Alfonsin for a meeting of the Organisation of American States and reiterated they would support all means to achieve a peaceful settlement.

GUARDIAN 4 NOV 86 pag 8

EEC lobbied by Buenos Aires over fishing zone

By Tim Dickson in Brussels

ARGENTINA WILL today try to enlist European Community support against Britain's unilateral announcement last week of a 150-mile fishing zone round the Falklands.

The subject is expected to dominate meetings in Brussels this afternoon between Mr Jorge Sabato, the country's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the EEC Commissioners for Fisheries and North-South relations. Mr Antonio Cardoso e Cunha and Mr Claude Cheysson.

Mr Sabato had a long standing appointment to see Mr Cheysson but the session with Mr Cardoso has been arranged in respons to last week's developments.

Officials in Brussels last night were reluctant to comment on what is a potentially sensitive issue for the Community. Under Britain's 1973 Accession Treaty, the Falklands are defined as overseas territories and responsibility for their fishing activities lies with the UK.

The Commission, however, automatically becomes involved in negotiating access to the fishing zone on behalf of other EEC member states in the same way that it acts on behalf of the Community negotiations over fishing around the Faroes with Denmark. Britain will therefore be in the odd position of, in effect, having a seat on both sides of the table.

Observers in Brussels believe that much will depend on the attitude of Spain, which is a close political ally of Argentina but whose fishing fleet (the largest in the EEC) has a significant interest in the waters around the Falklands. EEC fisheries ministers meet in Brussels tomorrow.

FINANCIAL TIMES 4 NOV 86 Page 8

Peru promises support for Argentina

President Garcia of Peru arrived in Buenos Aires for a brief visit yesterday to express his country's solidarity with Argentina following Britain's creation of a 150-mile fisheries protection zone around the disputed Falkland islands.

Peru would support the sovereignty rights of Argentina "over the Malvinas (Falklands) islands," he told President Alfonsin. Earlier Senor Alfonsin labelled Britain's South Atlantic plan an act of "plundering."

Peru and Argentina have a long-standing tradition of friendly relations and President Garcia is married to an Argentine.

D. TELEGRAPH 4 NOV 86 pag 6

Fishing zone takes Shultz by surprise

Buenos Aires (Reuter) – Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has told Argentina he was surprised by Britain's move to extend its territorial waters around the disputed Falkland Islands, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Mr Shultz, in a telephone conversation on Saturday night with the Argentine Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, agreed to meet on the subject at the Organization of American States next week in Guatemala, the sources said.

They said Argentina was striving to win US support as part of a sweeping diplomatic offensive against the new British claims.

Washington sided with London in the 10-week war over the British-held islands in 1982. The tension between the two nations last Wednesday reached its highest point since then when Britain announced it was claiming control over a 150-mile fisheries protection zone around the islands.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil met yesterday to map out a common strategy in response to the declaration (Eduardo Cué writes).

The session, near the Uruguayan resort town of Punta del Este, ended a weekend of frantic diplomatic activity by the Argentine Government in its attempt to isolate Britain on the Falklands issue.

The Argentine Government has sent two high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials to explain its position to a number of governments, including those of Spain, Italy, France, Holland, Algeria and Zimbabwe.

At the weekend, Buenos Aires sent London a formal protest Note in which it claimed that by declaring Britain controlled a 150-mile fishing zone around the islands, Mrs Thatcher's Government "had preferred to introduce a new factor of tension in the area that will lead to unforeseen consequences".

"The responsibility for this situation will inexorably fall on the British Government," the Note said.

In a demonstration of national unity the Argentine Senate late on Friday night ratified the fishing treaties between Argentina, the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, which authorize those countries to fish in the disputed zone, and which were the origin of the current crisis.

But despite the strong support the Government of President Raul Alfonsín has received from political parties of all ideological shades, some prominent politicians have been critical of the Foreign Ministry's handling of the issue, especially with regard to the fishing pacts. The doubts were expressed during a closed-door session on Friday between Señor Caputo and leading members of Congress.

Señor Caputo has insisted that all possible British reactions to the fishing treaties, which commit the Argentine Government to provide port facilities for the Soviet fishing trawlers, were carefully studied. Nevertheless, Buenos Aires was clearly surprised by the British measures and has sought numerous explanations for them, including possible US involvement and Mrs Thatcher's internal political problems.

The new military committee set up last week in response to the British move met for the first time at the weekend. Fears have been raised that the committee, composed of the President, the Defence Minister and top military commanders, has given the armed services a new prestige which they had lost following their defeat in the Falklands war.

● LIMA: President Garcia of Peru is flying to Buenos Aires today to deliver his country's support to President Alfonsín over the latest tensions over the Falklands (Michael Smith writes).

In a rare Saturday session, the Peruvian Congress authorized Señor Garcia to undertake a three-day visit to Argentina. It unanimously approved a motion backing Argentina, following Britain's extension of fishing rights.

Under the Garcia administration, Peru has moved to strengthen its ties, having signed trade and mutual assistance agreements this year.

THE TIMES

3 NOV 86 Pag. 12

Sudden zone decision takes industry aback

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

There is considerable surprise in the fishing industry that, after years of being urged to take action to conserve stocks around the Falkland Islands, the Government has suddenly decided to impose a 150-mile fisheries conservation zone.

Since the end of the Falklands War industry leaders have expressed concern that fleets from Japan, the Soviet Union, Europe and South America have been allowed to plunder a valuable resource. A few months ago a Hull-based group chartered several Japanese "squid-jiggers" to get in on the act.

The Government's response until last week was that it was difficult to police domestic fishing grounds, and that to try to do so in the South Atlantic would be impractical.

THE TIMES 3 NOV 86 Pag. 12

FIN TRANSMISION

Britons at risk in Argentina protests

By NORMAN KIRKHAM, DAVID BROWN and DESMOND WETTERN

THREATS to British businesses in Argentina were growing yesterday after demonstrators stoned a bank in Buenos Aires in protest against the new 150-mile fishing zone to be imposed around the Falklands.

The demonstration increased apprehension in Whitehall that the islands will have the most politically dangerous fishing grounds in the world, protected by only two unarmed trawlers and a small aircraft.

Police arrested 30 of several hundred marchers who broke windows of the Bank of London and South America and seriously damaged a parked car. Those arrested included veterans of the 1982 Falklands War.

The demonstrators crowded in front of the bank shortly before midnight on Friday chanting "Englishmen get out."

In London, British diplomats are concerned that several hundred other British offices and staffs will be harassed or become the target for violence.

Senor Dante Caputo, Argentine Foreign Minister, has announced that the Government will "not exclude" possible economic reprisals against the British holdings.

Whitehall advisers are studying urgently reports on the Argentine protests and, if necessary, the Swiss embassy in Buenos Aires will be asked to make representations on Britain's behalf.

Argentina sent a protest note to Britain via the Brazilian Embassy in London yesterday accusing Whitehall of introducing new tension which would have "unforeseable consequences". President Garcia of Peru will fly to Beanos Aires today to offer support in the dispute with Britain.

Britain is already bracing for another diplomatic offensive from Argentina at the United Nations in the coming weeks. A strong resolution condemning the Falklands fishing limits and the British Government policy is likely to be forced through an Assembly session.

Mr Peter Dereham, Britain's Chief Inspector of Fisheries, is to fly to Port Stanley tomorrow amid growing doubts over the practicalities of the "cut price" fishery protection plan.

Falkland Islands Government representatives are to charter two large trawlers from Britain. Each will carry crews of 20 to 30 civilians.

A small twin-engined "spotter" aircraft will also be leased for the operation, which will cost less than £4 million a year. No arms will be carried by the new inspectorate.

As he prepared to leave last night Mr Dereham commented: "Guns? Why should anyone need guns?" A Falklands Government source in Port Stanley added: "If there is any trouble, we will have to call on the Navy to help."

But at present the naval force off the Falklands has been reduced to two frigates. The survey vessel Endurance, which is more likely to bear the brunt of any trouble-shooting is undergoing a refit at Devonport and will not return to the islands for some months.

Another challenge to the Falklands plan came last night when the British all-party South Atlantic Council warned in London that Britain was "asking for trouble", and that clashes were "bound to occur".

According to the Council, Britain is acting illegally under the United Nations Law of the Sea convention by declaring such a zone without an agreement with Argentina as a neighbouring and affected state.

Despite the controversy, British trawler companies are preparing to send in major fishing expeditions to the Falklands.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
2 NOV 86 pag 4

Fishing war hits Alfonsin's rule

by Maria-Laura Avignolo
Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA's armed forces, which have lost power steadily since the 1982 Falklands war, look set to be the chief beneficiaries of Britain's decision last week to impose a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

For the first time since democracy was restored three years ago, President Raul Alfonsin called the chiefs of staff together to participate in the condemnation of Britain's decision.

At the same time he declared a military alert and cancelled leave. The air force carried out joint manouevres with the army for the first time since their defeat by British forces in 1982, and coastal patrols were intensified.

Yesterday Argentina strongly reaffirmed its claims to sovereignty over the Falklands in a note delivered through the Brazilian Embassy in London.

Buenos Aires said that the British decision would renew tension in the region and that Britain would be "responsible for any unforeseen consequences". The note renewed Argentinian calls for bilateral negotiations over sovereignty of the islands.

The new British fishing zone, which according to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, was imposed to stop over-fishing, gives the Argentinian armed forces the perfect excuse to apply for a reappraisal of the 1987 military budget, at present a lowly 2.5% of gross national product.

"The British decision means that the armed forces can now demand lorries, petrol and more patrols," said a defence ministry spokesman.

One senior diplomat said: "Mrs Thatcher has endangered Argentinian democracy. The toughest section of the military will keep up the pressure until they get concessions."

The Argentinian foreign minister, Dante Caputo, is concerned there could be trouble in the zone where Argentinian and British territorial claims meet. Although he was keen to play down the importance of the military in decision-taking, most politicians agree that the British declaration, which comes into effect from February 1, 1987, gave Argentina no face-saving way out.

The gravity with which Whitehall's decision was received in Buenos Aires became evident when it emerged that Alfonsin had telephoned President Mitterrand of France, Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, President Luis Sarney of Brazil and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, the current president of the non-aligned movement. The government



Calling for help: President Raul Alfonsin speaks to Brazil's President Sarney as part of a worldwide effort to drum up support for Argentina

is sending senior officials on tours of Europe and non-aligned countries to drum up support for Argentina.

Until last week's decision, all ships except Argentinian vessels could enter the 150-mile zone around the Falklands. The British Foreign Office said about 600 trawlers — most from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — fished there in 1986. The aim is to reduce the numbers to about 200 next year.

Bulgaria and the Soviet Union have already signed a fishing agreement with Argentina for the Falkland waters but Japan was reluctant because of the dispute over sovereignty.

During Alfonsin's visit to Moscow two weeks ago, he agreed that the Soviet Union could catch 180,000 tons of fish in the south Atlantic each year. Argentinian sources believe this provoked the British government into declaring the fishing zone.

SUNDAY TIMES
2 NOV 86 pag 12

94

Squid wars isolate Britain

IAN MATHER ■ Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN faces diplomatic isolation at the United Nations later this month over its declaration of a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falklands.

Only Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands are expected to support Britain in the General Assembly debate against an Argentine motion demanding negotiations over sovereignty. In addition a number of countries that abstained previously are expected to join the vast majority voting against Britain.

But the Government considers it had no alternative to bringing in the new fishing zone.

It cites aggressive patrolling by Argentina, which resulted in the sinking of a Taiwan fishing boat with the death of a seaman, the bilateral fishing deals Argentina has struck with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, and above all the threat to stocks stemming from the fishing free-for-all in Falklands waters.

Britain has decided to restrict the new zone to 150 miles instead of the full 200 to avoid falling foul of international law, and be easier to police.

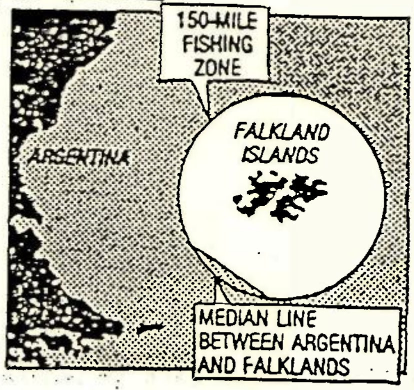
It has also removed a slice of the circle south-west of the Falklands so that the new zone does not cross the median line between the Falklands and Argentina. This will create a buffer between the new zone and waters in which Argentine vessels have an indisputable right to fish, and, Britain hopes, minimise the risk of a violent clash.

Even so, one third of the new zone lies within the 200-mile limit from the Argentine coast which Argentina claims. The South Atlantic Council, an all-party group of British MPs and others said yesterday that 'clashes are bound to occur' on the high seas.

The British announcement provoked outbursts of nationalist feelings in Argentina, where the government immediately cancelled all army leave. A British-owned bank was yesterday stoned during a demonstration in Buenos Aires against the British move.

However, the emphasis in Buenos Aires is likely to be on diplomatic efforts to win international sympathy, and it is thought that more countries which have previously remained neutral on the sovereignty question will gravitate towards Argentina's claim as a result of the unilateral British action. Argentina has downplayed the possibility of using military force.

It described the British move as a 'retrograde step,' which could 'isolate Britain further from the international community.'



It added that the British declaration was dubious in international law since a median line could not be fixed unilaterally, but had to be negotiated directly between the parties or delineated by an international court.

The Falkland Islands government expects to recoup between £5 million and £9 million a year from licences. In addition, it has begun charging 'transhipment' fees of £1,500 when fish is transferred from one ship to another within territorial waters.

It is negotiating in Britain to charter two trawlers for use as fishery patrol vessels, and a light aircraft for reconnaissance.

However, as the patrol boats will be unarmed, it is inevitable that the Navy will be called upon to deal with any serious trouble. Already overstretched in the North Atlantic, it is unhappy about taking on the extra duties of policing a Falklands fishing zone. A Whitehall source described as 'horrendous' the MoD's estimated policing costs.

OBSERVER 2 NOV 86
pag 17

Falklands garrison to be cut by 2,000

by MICHAEL TONER

BRITAIN is set to slash its garrison in the Falklands by more than 2,000 men, despite the growing tension in the South Atlantic.

Many of the troops now manning the defences of the islands will be back in Britain by Christm[illegible] By early in the New Year the si[illegible] of our forces on the Falklands will be down to battalion strength—around 600 men.

The move is due to the near-completion of the massive military airport at Mount Pleasant, 38 miles from Port Stanley. The second runaway in the £400 million project should be fully operational by next spring.

The development of the airport means that if trouble does blow up in the South Atlantic reinforcements could be rushed to the Falklands within 30 hours.

The newly-equipped 5 Airborne Brigade would almost certainly be first on the spot, flying into Mount Pleasant on long-haul wide-bodied jets.

Military chiefs are confident that the 600 or so men based in the islands [illegible] be able to defend themselves [illegible] the airport until the reinforcements arrived.

The big plus for Britain in the Mount Pleasant development is that it will slash the huge cost of the Falklands garrison at a time when the defence budget is coming under severe pressure. The savings involved in cutting the garrison will be at least £500,000 a week.

Although the full Mount Pleasant facility will not be operational until the spring, troops are already beginning to transfer to their new billet from Port Stanley. In future, the airport will be at the very heart of Britain's Falklar[illegible] defences.

The timing of the troop reductions is unlikely to be affected by the new row which has blown up between Britain and Argentina over this country's imposition of a formal fishing zone round the islands.

● Argentine police stepped up security outside British offices in Buenos Aires last night after a mob of demonstrators stoned the British-owned Bank of London and South America in the city centre.

Police said they had received an Interior Ministry order to increase guards around buildings linked to British interests, including the vacant British Embassy.

The security clamp-down came as Peruvian President Alan Garcia made plans to fly to Buenos Aires to show support for Argentine President Raul Alfonsin over the row with Britain.

SUNDAY EXPRESS 2 NOV 86

pag 4

AN ISLAND GATEWAY TO RICHES

AT LAST the Government has imposed fishing limits of 150 miles around the Falklands.

The islanders have long been yelling for this.

They've watched Russians, Japanese and other foreigners taking their livelihood.

The area has been as grossly overfished as herrings were in the North Sea.

Naturally those, like Labour, who want to give the Falklands to Argentina are furious.

But Argentina has never had a valid claim to the Falklands.

A tiny group of unlawfully squatting Spaniards left one Falkland island in 1833.

That was before Argentina was invented.

If there is no Labour government which betrays the Falklanders our descendants will be delighted.

There is enormous wealth in natural sources around the Falklands. They're also our entry into Antarctica.

In 100 years that could provide more wealth than anywhere else on earth.

NEWS OF THE WORLD
2 NOV 86 pag 6

Falklands row 'forces Alfonsin to give way to his critics'

From Jeremy Morgan, in Buenos Aires

Argentina's latest Falklands crisis with Britain may have forced President Alfonsin to make concessions to his critics in the armed forces and elsewhere at home, Western diplomats here warn.

The diplomats pointed to the delay by the Argentine Foreign Ministry protesting to Britain against Britain's Falklands fishing zone. Britain announced the zone last Wednesday, but the note from Buenos Aires only arrived at the weekend.

There has been no official explanation of why the Government waited three days before sending the formal protest, which added little to earlier Argentine statements but fell far short of nationalist demands, including reprisals against British interests here.

It is seen as a sign of official fears of an outburst of nationalist sentiment reminiscent of the Falklands war in 1982.

There are suspicions here that the United States somehow had a hand in the British move and the Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, had at least one secret meeting with



Dante Caputo: secret meeting

Mr Elliot Abrams, the US Undersecretary for Inter-American Affairs. He has also reportedly spoken on the telephone to the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz.

Mr Shultz apparently said that he was surprised by Britain's move to extend its territorial waters around the Falklands. He agreed to hold a private meeting on the subject with Mr Caputo at the Organisation of American States in Guatemala next week, sources said.

Mr Caputo yesterday met the foreign ministers of Brazil and Uruguay at the Uruguayan holiday resort of Punta del Este, with officials predicting that they would reject the British measure.

President Alan Garcia of Peru, Argentina's closest ally during the war, plans to arrive today to show Latin American solidarity with Argentina. But observers question whether his populist nationalism well serve President Alfonsin's interests as well as his own. "Any grandstanding by Mr Garcia will only add to difficulties in keeping the lid on domestic pressure for tough action," one diplomat said.

Police arrested 27 people after protesters stoned a British bank in Buenos Aires on Friday night.

The demonstration came hours after senior ministers told Argentine business leaders that the Government did not plan action against British companies.

The Government has meanwhile decided to form a military committee and to stop sending conscripts home early. The measures are seen as a sign that President Alfonsin does not feel strong enough to confront an officer corps which largely considers itself a law unto itself.

GUARDIAN 3 NOV 86 pag 9

FOREIGN NEWS

Argentina protests over fish zone

By Cristina Bonasegna in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA has sent a formal note of protest to Britain over its declaration of a fisheries protection zone around the disputed Falkland Islands in an all-out diplomatic offensive to win international support against the move.

The protest not was presented to the British Government at the weekend through the Brazilian Embassy, which has represented Argentine interests in London since the Falklands war in 1982.

The note, which expresses "its most formal rejection" of the British move announced last Wednesday, urges London to enter "global negotiations" to find a solution to the current conflict, including the "sovereignty dispute".

Secret meeting

"The British Government has chosen to introduce a new factor of tension in the area which will be the cause of unforeseen consequences. Inexorably, the responsibility for the situation will rest within the British Government, says the note.

As part of the diplomatic offensive launched by the Argenting Government, Senor Dante Caputo, Foreign Minister, yesterday met the Foreign Ministers of neighbouring Brazil and Uruguay.

The meeting, being held near Uruguay's seaside resort of Punta del Este, to discuss regional diplomatic strategies against Britain's decision, was suggested by President Julio Sanguinetti of Uruguay, following a telephone conversation with President Alfonsin of Argentina last week.

Before leaving for Uruguay, Senor Caputo confirmed that he had held a secret meeting with Mr Elliot Abrams, United States Undersecretary for Inter-American Affairs, over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Argentina in its campaign to win support for its dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands, has submitted a new resolution in advance of this month's debate in the United Nations General Assembly.

The draft, sponsored by Algeria, Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, is almost identical to last year's resolution, which mustered 107 votes.

However, the new resolution makes no mention of the latest rift between the two countries as a result of Britain's decision to introduce a new 150-mile fishery exclusion zone around the islands.

D. TELEGRAPH 3NOV86 pag 7

Falkland talks

Punta del Este (AFP) — The Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay began talks yesterday on the ramifications of Britain's declaration of a 150-nautical mile fisheries limit around the Falkland Islands, official Uraguayan sources said. The meeting was seen as the first step in a diplomatic move by Argentina to condemn the zone.

INDEPENDENT 3 NOV 86
pag 8

Argentina woos EEC

Argentina has sought the help of Britain's EEC partners and the US in its Falklands fishing row with the UK. Back Page; Editorial comment, Page 28

F. TIMES 5 NOV 86 pag 1

Argentina in EEC plea over fishing

BY TIM DICKSON IN BRUSSELS AND TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA yesterday sought the help of Britain's European partners and the US in the Falkland Islands fisheries dispute.

In a two-pronged diplomatic offensive, President Raul Alfonsin made a telephone appeal to President Ronald Reagan for "support and understanding" while Mr Jorge Sabato, Argentina's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, called on EEC member states and the international community to help find a solution.

In Buenos Aires, Government officials said President Alfonsin assured President Reagan that Argentina's diplomatic offensive (; the only offensive the country would undertake.

In Brussels, Mr Sabato told a press conference that Argentina rejected Britain's argument that last week's announcement of a 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands was designed to conserve fish stocks.

He claimed it was a direct attack on Argentine sovereignty.

It had aggravated the dispute already under way between Britain and Argentina, he added.

Mr Sabato emphasised that Argentina was seeking a peaceful negotiated settlement of the affair. When asked to speculate on developments if Britain remained intransigent, however, he replied: "You can imagine what would happen."

Mr Sabato also put his country's case at individual meetings in Brussels with Mr Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, the EEC Commissioner for Fisheries, and Mr Claude Cheysson, the Commissioner for North-South Affairs.

Under Britain's 1973 Accession Treaty, the European Commission becomes involved when negotiating access on behalf of other EEC member states to waters around overseas territories whose management is Britain's responsibility.

Argentina's best chance of tangible support lies with Spain, which could raise the issue and embarrass Britain at a meeting of EEC Fisheries Minsisters in Brussels today.

But Mr Sabato said yesterday that Argentina had not made any official request to Madrid. There were no indications in Brussels last night that any such gesture is planned.

Spain is in a difficult diplomatic position since it has the biggest fishing fleet in the EEC and has a vested interest in applying for continued fishing rights around the Falkland Islands.

British officials yesterday insisted that the interim zone had been imposed in response to what Britain saw as serious over-fishing since 1983 and the refusal of Argentina to participate in multilateral negotiations to agree voluntary restraint.

Mr Sabato countered by claiming that Argentina had taken important conservation initiatives of its own, that the new zone overlapped with several outlying Argentine islands, and that Britain's action was contrary to various UN declarations.

Editorial Comment Page 28

F. TIMES 5 NOV 86 pag 48

Reagan to assist efforts in bringing together rivals

Argentina 'plans only diplomatic response'

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

President Raoul Alfonsin has promised President Reagan that Argentina planned to take "only a diplomatic initiative" against Britain's fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

Officials, who stressed that the Argentine Government was intent on a "very concrete difference" from the military regime's attitude in 1982, said the assurance was given during a 10-minute telephone conversation between the two leaders on Monday night.

President Alfonsin set out Argentina's position, official sources said, while President Reagan expressed concern over the new situation in the south Atlantic and said he would add his weight to efforts to bring Argentina and Britain together.

But suggestions that President Reagan offered his "good offices" were generally discounted. However, diplomatic observers said the Argentine government hoped to pursue a "mediation" offer reportedly discussed with France and Italy. Argentina's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Jorge Sabato, is currently in Europe talking to the governments of both countries, as well as West Germany, Spain, Switzerland, and several others.

Officials at the US embassy in Buenos Aires declined to comment on the telephone conversation between the two presidents.

But reports yesterday said that President Reagan had in turn assured President Alfonsin that the US Government was not informed beforehand by Britain over the fishing zone plan.

However, a report by a columnist from La Prensa, a conservative daily newspaper, indicated that the US and some other allies of Britain probably had an inkling of British thinking for several weeks before Sir Geoffrey Howe's announcement in the Commons a week ago.

The columnist, Mr Jesus Iglesias Rouco, who reported in February, 1982, that the Argentinian regime was planning military action over the Falklands, said that Britain had sounded out the US and other countries on a fishing zone around the Falklands several weeks ago.

Apart from the US and the EEC, he said, British officials had also outlined the idea to other countries, including Argentina's allies, Brazil and Uruguay.

La Prensa suggested that a warning of British intentions had been transmitted by the Brazilians — and that similar messages may also have been sent to the Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, by the governments in Paris, Madrid, Bonn, Rome, and even the Vatican City.

Even while Buenos Aires was preparing final terms on its fishing accord with the Soviet Union, Britain had developed its fishing zone plan and contacted the other countries, the newspaper said. However, it claimed, the subsequent warnings to the Argentine Foreign Ministry seemed for some reason to have been ignored or overlooked.

Michael Simmons adds: Argentinian Foreign Ministry officials were in Brussels yesterday to protest at what they see as the unfairness of the British fishing zone round the Falkland Islands, declared last week.

Mr Sabato was received by the EEC Fisheries Commissioner, Mr Cardoso Cunha, and the Commissioner for External Affairs, Mr Claude Cheysson. On both occasions, he made it plain, as Buenos Aires spokesmen did last week, the Argentina was not prepared to compromise with Britain over fishing rights.

Mr Sabato said afterwards that for Argentina the key issue remained the sovereignty of the islands. For Britain, according to Foreign Office thinking, sovereignty of the islands is the only issue which is not negotiable.

Foreign Office spokesmen were at pains last night to stress what the Foreign Secretary called the "interim" nature of the fishing zone proposals. The British feeling at the moment is that there is "a very real problem" and that some understanding had to be reached by all interested parties before the fishing season got properly under way in January or February next year.

An Argentinian response to last week's proposal had been received through the Brazilian embassy in London and was now being studied along with "reactions" from other concerned countries.

These include the Soviet Union, which has to maintain good relations with Argentina, the biggest presence, in terms of trawlers, in the disputed waters.

GUARDIAN
(P. 7) 5. NOVIEMBRE
1986

Argentina Leads in Move to Improve Soviet-Latin American Relationships

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

BUENOS AIRES — The people of Argentina were treated in mid-October to a sight they had never seen before: an Argentine president in Moscow.

They also heard confirmation of another precedent-setting event planned for next year: Mikhail S. Gorbachev expects to visit Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Cuba and possibly other Latin American countries, the first time a Soviet leader will have set foot on the South American continent.

These diplomatic moves represent a new stage in relations between the Communist superpower and some of the Southern Hemisphere's major nations, according to government officials, diplomats and academicians here.

For Latin America as well as the Soviet Union, the upgrading of contacts to the highest level offers the promise of expanded trade.

But in addition to this economic motive, officials on both sides appear to share a political interest in placing relations on a more aboveboard and stable plane in a region where local Communist parties have sometimes operated clandestinely and disruptively.

Argentine officials have been careful to make clear that their latest overtures toward the East do not signify growing neutrality or any blurring of government ideology, but rather an assertion of Argentine autonomy within the country's stated position as a member of the group of nonaligned nations.

In the past quarter-century, Moscow has quietly extended its presence in Latin America, increasing from five to 16 the number of countries with which it has diplomatic relations.

Local political analysts expect Soviet interest in the region to grow as Moscow's commercial investments widen from fishing fleets to planned development projects and as the southern reaches of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, along with Antarctica, take on added strategic significance.

The industrialized West may be indirectly responsible for impelling more intensive negotiations between Latin American nations and the Soviet Union. Pressures to maintain debt payments to Western governments and banks are prompting debtor nations to look for new or widened foreign markets, away from U.S. and European competition and trade barriers.

Raúl Alfonsín, Argentina's democratically elected centrist president, has taken the lead in welcoming stronger ties with Moscow.

On his return flight from Moscow, Mr. Alfonsin noted that Argentina enjoys a positive trade balance with the Soviet Union but a negative one with Western Europe. He said that improved ties with Moscow serve "to give a sense of justice to our foreign trade and favor more those who favor us."

Moscow, in the meantime, has decided to extract a greater price of its own. Once willing to run huge deficits with Latin American nations, it is now more insistent about achieving balanced trade, reflecting Mr. Gorbachev's general drive to increase Soviet economic efficiency.

Particularly lopsided have been the Soviet Union's exchanges with Argentina, which at their peak in 1981 showed Soviet purchases of $3.5 billion and sales of only $65 million.

Since then, the Soviet Union has bought less and less from Argentina. Alarmed by the decline, Mr. Alfonsín sought in Moscow to outline new ways in which his country could step up imports from the Soviet Union.

The Argentines have offered to increase purchases of machinery; enlarge Soviet participation in Argentine hydroelectric, rural electrification and port projects; provide Argentine know-how to build fertilizer plants in the Soviet Union and furnish natural gas to operate them, and join with Soviet companies in ventures directed at Third World markets.

In turn, the Russians have reaffirmed a commitment, signed in January, to buy 4.5 million tons of grain annually from 1986 to 1990.



Reuters

Raúl Alfonsín

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
(Pg. 1-2) 5 NOVIEMBRE. 86.

Shadow Cabinet

Labour's Commons front bench team for the Parliamentary session 1986-7, announced this week. Those in **bold** type are elected members of the Shadow Cabinet.

Treasury and Economic Affairs: **Rt Hon Roy Hattersley.** Home Affairs: **Rt Hon Gerald Kaufman.** Trade and Industry: **Rt Hon John Smith.** Defence and Disarmament **Rt Hon Denzil Davies.** Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: **Rt Hon Denis Healey.** Energy; **Rt Hon Stan Orme.** Wales: **Barry Jones.** Leader of the House; **Rt Hon Peter Shore.** Environment; **Dr John Cunningham.** Northern Ireland: **Rt Hon Peter Archer.** Education: **Giles Radice.** Environmental protection and development: **Dr David Clark.** Employment: **John Prescott.** Scotland: **Donald Dewar.** Campaigns co-ordinator: **Bryan Gould.** Health and Social Security; **Michael Meacher.** Transport: Bob Hughes. Agriculture; Brynmor John. Health: Frank Dobson. Arts: Norman Buchan. Disabled people: Rt Hon Alf Morris. Legal affairs: Rt Hon John Morris QC. Overseas development and co-operation: Dr Stuart Holland. Science and technology: Dr Jeremy Bray. Womens rights: Jo Richardson.

INDEPENDENT 5 NOV 86 pag 6

Falkland zone 'blow to peace'

BRUSSELS: Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Sabato last night attacked Britain's 150-mile fishing protection zone round the Falklands as a blow to a peaceful solution on sovereignty.

Britain had acted to prevent over-fishing in the area but Mr Sabato, in Brussels to get Common Market support on the eve of today's meeting of EEC Fisheries ministers, said that the only way to solve the dispute was to secure agreement on the islands.

He said: 'The whole problem is one of sovereignty.'

The Minister rejected Britain's accusation that his Government was indifferent to the problems of over-fishing. He said Argentina had sought negotiations with the other countries involved, such as Japan and the Soviet Union.

In the Commons Mrs Thatcher told MPs the exclusion zone decision was 'absolutely right'. She said: 'It was correct and indeed necessary to exercise jurisdiction over those waters.'

D. MAIL 5 NOV 86 pag 10

Maggie firm on the Falklands

MRS Thatcher yesterday defended her decision to impose a 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falkands to secure fishing rights.

It was "correct and necessary to exercise jurisdiction over those waters" because Argentina had signed a fishing agreement with the Soviet Union, she told the Commons during Question Time.

Argentine President Raul Alfonsin phoned U.S. President Ronald Reagan, complaining.

And at the EEC headquarters in Brussels, deputy Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Sabato claimed the fisheries' protection zone put "new difficulties" in the way of peace.

D. EXPRESS 5 NOV 86 pag 4

Shultz surprised by Falklands zone

PUNTA DEL ESTE,
Uruguay, Sunday.

US Secretary of State George Shultz has told Argentina he was surprised by Britain's move to extend its territorial waters around the disputed Falklands Islands, diplomatic sources said here today.

Mr Shultz, in a telephone conversation on Saturday night with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, agreed to hold a private meeting on the subject with Mr Caputo at the Organisation of American States next week in Guatemala the sources said.

The sources said Argentina was striving to win US support as part of a sweeping diplomatic offensive against the new British claims.

The US sided with London in a 10-week war over the British-held islands in 1982. An Argentine invasion force surrendered to British troops after bloody fighting. Last Wednesday the tension between to the two nations reached its highest point since the war when Britain announced it was claiming control over a 200-mile fishing zone around the islands.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia was due in Buenos Aires tomorrow to bring "a message of support and solidarity" for Argentina's stand on the fisheries limit.

The Argentine Public Information Secretariat in a statement said Mr Garcia and President Raul Alfonsin held a telephone conversation in which Mr Garcia "expressed . . . his wish to come to give personally his support and solidarity" for Argentina in light of the British move.

In a formal note of protest today to the British Government on Saturday the Argentine Government said it rejected "any supposed right of Britain to exercise acts of sovereignty" in the south Atlantic archipelago.

GLASGOW HERALD 4 NOV '86 pag 4

Decks cleared for early election

TAX CUT HOPES DWINDLE

Lawson agrees to higher spending

MR LAWSON, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is expected to announce today that he has decided to allow public spending to increase — a decision which almost certainly rules out major tax cuts before the next election.

The spending overshoot is expected to be close to £4 billion, mainly due to increases in teachers' pay, local government spending and social security payouts.

Tory MPs see the Chancellor's decision as clearing the decks for a General Election next year — possibly as early as June, says Our Political Correspondent. The spending increase will also avoid a series of embarrassing rows between senior Ministers over so-called departmental "cuts."

City Comment and reserves fall — P23

Spending overshoot

By Anne Segall, Economics Correspondent

MR LAWSON, Chancellor, will admit tomorrow that the Government has lost the battle to keep the lid on public spending, thus eliminating almost all hope of sizeable tax cuts before the next election.

Symbolic blow to Tories

By George Jones, Political Correspondent

THE CHANCELLOR'S decision to increase the public spending total next year will be seen by MPs as a further indication that the Government are clearing the decks for a General Election, possibly as early as next June.

There has been a growing view among Ministers and Tory MPs that the Government could only keep to the original £143.9 billion target for 1987-88 by cutting back public spending beyond politically acceptable levels.

The decision to raise the spending target will undoubtedly be a symbolic blow for the Government, particularly for the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, who have both constantly emphasised the Government's determination to stick to pre-determined expenditure levels.

But it will be privately welcomed by many Conservative MPs and Ministers, who will regard it as a realistic, but inevitable move by the Treasury in the face of unavoidable pressures to raise spending.

It will also signal a pre-election truce in the Cabinet between the Chancellor and Ministers who have been pressing for targeted increases in Government spending in key areas in the run-up to the next election.

Attack expected

The Government, however, are braced for an all-out opposition attack on Mr Lawson's handling of the economy when the decision is announced.

DAILY TELEGRAPH (P.1) 5.NOV.86.

Mr. Foulkes: Has the Prime Minister seen today the report of the serious concern expressed in Europe and the United States of America, as well as throughout Latin America, at the unilateral announcement of a Falklands fisheries zone? Since it is in our interests to get an internationally accepted agreement on fisheries and to do nothing to undermine democracy in Argentina, will she think again about this hasty and ill-considered decision?

The Prime Minister: The decision was absolutely right. As the hon. Gentleman is aware, we have been trying through the Food and Agriculture Organisation to secure a multilateral agreement on fisheries with Argentina. We first took an initiative in April 1985, but it was delayed by Argentina. Eventually Argentina signed bilateral agreements which purported to regulate fishing in waters over which the Falklands are entitled to exercise jurisdiction. Faced with that, we took our action. It was correct and, indeed, necessary to exercise jurisdiction over those waters.

DIARIO SESIONES HANSARD

CAMARA COMUNES. VOL. 103 - Nº 69

4 NOVIEMBRE 1986 -

RESPUESTAS ORALES. COL. 796.

FIN TRANSMISION -

Alfonsín urges OAS backing in Falklands row

From Judith Evans
in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA has called an extraordinary meeting of all the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States (OAS) to discuss Britain's new fishing conservation zone.

At the meeting, due to take place next week in Guatemala, Argentina is expected to ask for and receive a declaration of solidarity from all of the Latin American members. Argentina recieved declarations of support from Brazil and Uruguay last Sunday at a foreign ministers meeting in Punta del Este in Uruguay.

President Alan García of Peru made a seven-hour visit to Buenos Aires yesterday to show his support for the government of President Raúl Alfonsín in its latest conflict with Great Britain over the disputed Falkland Islands and their adjacent territorial waters.

President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua reportedly sent messages of solidarity to Argentina, offering to send Nicaraguans to help defend "this Latin American territory." Other diplomatic fronts are also being tested by Argentina. President Alfonsín said that expressions of support have been received from other democracies and from the non-aligned nations.

The Argentine Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, said, following the Punta del Este meeting, that he had met Mr Elliot Abrams, the United States Under-Secretary of State for Latin America. At the meeting, which took place on Saturday morning at Mr Caputo's home, Mr Abrams stated that the US had not been informed of Britain's decision beforehand.

Mr Caputo also spoke by telephone with the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, and the two agreed to meet during the OAS assembly in Guatemala. It is understood that Mr Shultz is attempting to arrange a telephone conversation between Presidents Reagan and Alfonsín.

Unconfirmed reports from the meeting of the Argentine, Brazilian and Uruguayan foreign ministers suggest that the three nations may have also agreed to organize a joint naval force to patrol the disputed waters.

■ The British decision to push out the limits of its fishing zone around the Falkland Islands was tantamount to an invasion of Argentina, Jorge Sabato, Argentina's deputy foreign minister said yesterday, **Frances Williams** writes. The extension of zone limits from 150 to 200 miles meant Britain was claiming jurisdiction over Argentine territorial waters. "In my opinion, it is a real invasion, a real territorial agression" he said.

Backing for Argentina: Latin American foreign ministers are expected to back a call for solidarity with Argentina in the fisheries row with Britain when they meet next week. Page 8

THE INDEPENDENT
4 NOV 86 paginas 1 y 8

Argentina wins support for talks on Falkland row

BY TIM COONE IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA won increased backing from Latin America in its fisheries and sovereignty dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands yesterday with a strong expression of support from President Alan Garcia of Peru.

President Garcia, who arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday, said his visit was aimed at promoting a unified Latin American response to Britain's decision last week to declare a 200-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

His arrival follows the decision by Brazil and Uruguay at the weekend to support Argentina's call for a special session of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to discuss the issue.

Yesterday President Garcia described Britain's move as "an act of provocation" and declared his full backing for Argentina. "An aggression against Argentina is an aggression against Peru and Latin America," he said after talks with President Raul Alfonsin.

The decision by Brazil and Uruguay was reached during a weekend meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries in Punta de Este, Uruguay, at which Argentina launched its diplomatic offensive against the fishing zone move by London.

At the weekend the Argentinian Government issued a formal note of protest to Britain over the decision, saying it introduces "a new factor of tension in the region" which could bring unforeseeable consequences. The note calls once again for "global negotiations" between the two countries to resolve the dispute, and which would encompass the sovereignty issue.

The British Government has steadfastly refused to negotiate the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands since the Argentine invasion in 1982.

The meeting between Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and his counterparts from Brazil and Uruguay resulted in a seven-point joint statement in which Brazil and Uruguay expressed full support for Argentina's position.

They agreed to call for a special meeting of the Permanent Council of Foreign Ministers of the OAS to discuss the fisheries dispute and further agreed to lay the basis of a future "permanent commission of the South Atlantic" in which the three coastal states to the south Atlantic would co-operate in the study and possible exploitation and protection of fisheries resources of the region.

Earlier Mr Caputo met the US joint Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, Mr Elliot Abrams, who was on a visit to US ambassadors of the region.

Mr Caputo sounded out the US position with Mr Abrams on the new situation in the South Atlantic and later held a telephone conversation with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who, in a non-commital statement, apparently told him: "We coincide in the need for negotiation as a means of avoiding conflict and to analyse a practical way forward to achieve it."

FINANCIAL TIMES 4NOV86 pag 8

Spain 'no' to Falklands fishing zone

Madrid (Reuter) — Spain will not ask Britain for fishing licences in the new Falklands fishing zone to avoid implying it recognised British sovereignty over the islands, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said.

Jorge Sabato, Argentina's secretary of state for foreign affairs, who was on a brief visit to Madrid, praised the Spanish decision.

Spain supports the Argentine claim to sovereignty over the islands but says the claim should be pressed only by peaceful means.

INDEPENDENT 7 NOV 86 pag 8

Spain to ignore Falklands zone

From Paul Ellman in Madrid

Spain and Britain are on a collision course following a statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, that Spanish ships will ignore planned fishing restrictions around the Falkland Islands.

Spain, which supported Argentina in the 1982 war with Britain, is the EEC country which fishes most in the conservation zone which Britain is to impose within a 150 mile radius of the Falklands from next February.

Its refusal to abide by a British regulation requiring fishing boats to obtain permits to enter the zone after that date could provoke a similar reaction from the Soviet Union, which is a partner in a fleet of vessels that is responsible for half the Spanish catch.

Mr Gonzalez made his government's decision known at a meeting with Latin American journalists late on Wednesday night to mark visits he is about to make to Ecuador, Peru and Cuba.

"Spain will make no legal act which will allow people to think that it is recognising any sovereignty over the Malvinas distinct from that of Argentina," Mr Gonzalez said.

Early British hopes that the Spanish Prime Minister was tailoring his remarks to suit a Latin American audience were dashed yesterday when his Foreign Minister, Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, reaffirmed the Spanish position at a meeting with an envoy of the Argentine leader, President Raul Alfonsin.

The envoy, Mr Jorge Sabato, the deputy foreign minister, said that the Spanish decision to ignore the British decision "fills us with joy and confidence."

Mr Sabato, who arrived in Madrid after visits to Brussels and Paris and who later left for Rome, expressed confidence that Spain would try to persuade other EEC nations to press Britain into negotiations with Argentina over the fishing dispute.

Mr Gonzalez and the French Prime Minister, Mr Jacques Chirac, discussed the possibility of a joint EEC position on the dispute at a meeting in Madrid yesterday.

The Argentine envoy stressed that his Government had no intention of employing violence and said: "We hope for a prudent attitude, something unusual for the British Government."

Mr Sabato's tour is part of a diplomatic offensive ordered by President Alfonsin to explain Argentina's opposition to the British move.

Britain has justified the creation of the conservation area on the grounds that stocks of fish, particularly the squid which is the principal catch of Spanish boats, run the risk of extinction if present fishing levels continue.

Spain, however, quickly criticised the British decision as "unilateral" and warned that it could only complicate efforts to settle the Falklands dispute, which officials in Madrid compare to the dispute over Gibraltar.

Spanish officials calculate that Britain will be forced to make concessions on the fishing issue, if only to avert a confrontation between a Western and a Latin American country at a time when the Soviet Union is showing new interest in the region.

President Alfonsin became the first Argentine leader to visit the Soviet Union in the middle of last month.

GUARDIAN 7 NOV 86 pag 8

Falklands changes

THE BRITISH government has heeded the call to protect fish and squid stocks around the Falkland Islands, and imposed a 200-mile limit.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, made the announcement shortly before *FNI* went to press.

It could be put into force as early as February 1987, and will affect fleets estimated to come from 20 countries.

● For further details, turn to page 2.

200-mile protection for Falklands fishing

BRITAIN'S decision to apply a 200-mile fishing limit to waters around the Falklands promises to end the free-for-all which has threatened stocks in the area.

Falkland Islands authorities will sell licences to fish in the zone. It is thought that this could bring in £25 million a year.

The zone will be reduced where it overlaps with Argentina's 200-mile limit.

It is a turn-around in more ways than one, writes Michael Robbins of our sister paper *Fishing News*.

Doubts had been expressed by official sources as to whether such a limit could be enforced.

But in announcing the move, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said that British forces on the islands would help the civilian protection vessels to enforce the new regime.

As far as conservation policy is concerned, establishing a unilateral limit is a major policy change because the Foreign Office has always put its faith in a multilateral approach based on an agreement which would be reached with the help of a report from FAO. But FAO is not now expected to produce its report until the end of the year; it had previously been due in October and before that, in the summer.

Events overtook FAO a few months when the Argentinians concluded a fishing agreement with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria. Argentina claims a 200-mile fishing limit around the Falklands, using baselines making it a very large area.

Earlier this month, a Foreign Office spokesman said that the option of introducing a unilateral British limit has been retained and was always open.

Mr. Howe suggested that Argentina's deal with the East Europeans had undermined efforts to resolve the issue through a "multilateral approach".

Conservation is as pressing an issue as politics in Falklands waters. Far Eastern and Spanish vessels are jigging for illex and trawling for liligo squid. The trawling operations could be a particular threat to stocks.

However, a report published a year ago by John Beddington, of Imperial College, London, and others focussed attention not just on squid but on southern blue whiting, which East European vessels have been catching.

New markets — in China and Iran particularly — have appeared and although the catch value is low compared to squid, there has been plenty of fishing effort.

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FISHING NEWS INT NOV '86 pag 1+2.

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The Beddington report expressed the hope that other species such as tuna might provide a hard currency catch for the East European vessels; this could have smoothed the way to a multilateral agreement but it seems the agreement with Argentina may have dashed these hopes.

It is also possible that Britain, having got wind of what is in the FAO report and knowing that conservation will be necessary, decided that something had to be done now.

FISHING NEWS INT. NOV'86

pag 1 y 2.-

Spanish Premier opposes Falklands zone

BY TOM BURNS IN MADRID

Mr Felipe Gonzalez, was reported yesterday to be opposed to the 150-mile Falklands conservation zone where there is an increasing presence of Spanish fishing vessels.

At a news conference for Latin American correspondents, Mr Gonzalez, who will be travelling at the weekend to Ecuador, Peru and Cuba, said Spain "will not take any legal steps that could lead to the suggestion that Spain recognises any sovereignty over the Malvinas (Falklands) that is not Argentine sovereignty."

Asked whether Spain would not therefore be seeking licences for its vessels fishing in the conservation zone, Mr Gonzalez said: "That is exactly the conclusion of the principle I have been trying to explain."

Since Spain has never recognised British sovereignty over the Falklands, the logical extension of the Spanish position is to not recognise the 150-mile zone that was recently announced by Britain.

Spain's attitude is coloured by the Gibraltar dispute with Britain and is reinforced by the close friendship between Mr Gonzalez and Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin.

Argentina's Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Jorge Sabato, who was in Madrid yesterday said he "deeply appreciated" Mr Gonzalez's stand. Argentina was looking for Spain to represent her interests in the EEC, he added.

The policy, as restated yesterday by Mr Gonzalez, will cause embarrassment both in the EEC and in Nato.

The Spanish position also raises problems for the trawler fleet based in Vigo which fishes in the conservation zone. The trawlers are now left with the option of appling for licences and defying the Government, of fishing illegally and defying the Royal Navy or of giving up an extremely lucrative business.

Mr Enrique Lopez Vega, executive director of the Vigo Trawlers' Association, said yesterday that he was "not in disagreement with the British decision to impose a conserva- area's main catch, for export. tion zone and insist on licences."

Vigo trawlers comprise the third largest fleet in the conservation zone after the Russians and the Japanese. This year 36 Vigo vessels, each one of them representing an investment of Pta 800m (£3m) and with 60 crew aboard, have spent three months in the Falklands area against 29 last year and 21 in 1983.

Mr Lopez Vega stressed that the Spanish trawlers had always been "humanely and helpfully" received in the Falklands (on occasions the RAF has ferried home sick seamen). The sole problem in the area was the one posed by East bloc fleets which, he claimed, were breaking tacit agreements and blatantly fishing squid, the

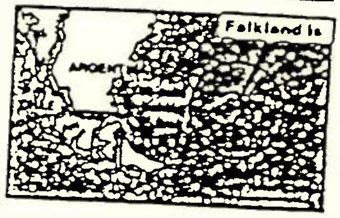
FINANCIAL TIMES 7NOV86 pag 2

Spain firm on Falklands

Spain indicated it would not recognise the 150-mile Falklands conservation zone declared by Britain as this would imply admission of UK sovereignty, Page 2

F. TIMES 7NOV86 pag 1

Go fishing



Conserving Falklands fish, good; conversing with Argentina about the islands, even better

Britain's drawing of a 150-mile circle around the Falklands, within which all fishing will in future have to be licensed by the islands' government, has brought some uncharacteristic cheek-puffing from Argentina's usually cool President Alfonsin. In Britain, the Labour opposition says Mrs Thatcher has sunk "deeper into the quagmire of the Falklands commitment". There has even been talk of a whiting war between the Russians, who scoop up too much fish in the area, and the two British patrol boats which will potter about the new conservation zone. The cries of dismay are overblown, and sensible people in Britain and Argentina should not let themselves be turned nationalist by all this.

Rather belatedly, Britain has acted to protect the Falklands' depleted stocks of fish from Russian, Polish and Taiwanese trawlers, which collected more than 380,000 tonnes of fish from the area in the first two-thirds of last year. The British action seems to be entirely legal. It could have happened sooner, except that Britain was trying to get the co-operation of President Alfonsin, tactfully going through the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation so as not to compromise Argentina's claim to the Falklands. The Argentines refused to co-operate, saying that the waters around the islands belonged to them, and last year they signed fishing agreements of their own with Russia and Bulgaria.

The timing of Britain's action has been criticised, on the argument that it may upset the finger-tip contact that was created when a British parliamentary delegation visited Argentina recently. No serious hope of talks emerged from that visit. The Argentines made it plain that they were unlikely to negotiate with Britain about Falklands this side of a British election, in the hope that the election would produce a Labour government readier to make concessions to them.

In fact, the British timing is in one way rather tactful. Britain is thinking of making another cut in its Falklands garrison, now that the Mount Pleasant air base on East Falkland means that reinforcements can be flown in quickly in a crisis. The withdrawal of more British troops would delight President Alfonsin. It would make nonsense of the demand by some Argentine generals that, because of British aggression on the subject of those fish, his slashing of military spending should be reversed.

Ever since the war of 1982, Argentina's unwillingness to be co-operative about small things like this fishing-one has helped to distract everybody's attention from the big thing in which democratic Argentina is being reasonable. This is its insistence that the two countries should be prepared to discuss the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands. Britain was, after all, prepared to talk about sovereignty as recently as 1981. Since then it has signed an agreement with China to hand over Hongkong, where far more people live. It is even talking with Spain about Gibraltar's sovereignty. True, a war has been fought over the Falklands, which makes it harder to get back to rational discussion. But enough time has passed since 1982 for Britain and Argentina to return to the central issue.

The issue is the Falklanders

That central issue is not flags, or any particular politician's sensibilities. It is how best to preserve the way of life of the people who live on the Falklands, at least for the lifetime of today's adults and their children. The armed stalemate between two democracies over the future of a large village in the South Atlantic is becoming a nonsense. In the long run, the Falklanders' interests would best be protected by an agreement which gave Argentina some share in sovereignty over the islands (its pride-saving bit) in return for its acceptance (the practical bit) of a treaty guaranteeing a continuation of the islanders' present political and legal rights, this treaty to be supervised by somebody with real clout: say, the United States. The alternative—a leaseback agreement, under which Britain would administer the territory but transfer formal sovereignty to Argentina—would probably be unacceptable to the Falklanders, because it would remove the comforting symbol of the Union Jack.

The last attempt at talks, in Bern in 1984, was scuppered when Argentina went back on an understanding about the talks' agenda. Since then, Britain has offered to allow Argentines to visit their soldiersons' graves in the islands, and to restore normal trade relations. It has unilaterally lifted its ban on Argentine imports. The answering silence from Buenos Aires has been deafening. It takes two to talk, Argentina.

EDITORIAL

THE ECONOMIST
7NOV86 pag 18

Spain will ignore fishing curb

By Tim Brown in Madrid

SPAIN cannot recognise the new fishing restrictions placed around the Falkland Islands by Britain, Senor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, has said in Madrid.

The Socialist leader was quoted yesterday as saying that Spain could not make any move that might be interpreted as a recognition of anything but Argentinian sovereignty over the islands.

Senor Gonzalez, who leaves tomorrow on an eight day trip to South America, was talking to Latin American journalists in the Spanish capital.

Pressed to say if that meant that Spain, which fishes heavily in the South Atlantic, would not apply for the new licences being demanded to fish in the Falklands, the Prime Minister replied: "That is exactly the conclusion of the principle that I have tried to explain."

'Political matter'

Spanish newspapers interpreted that yesterday to mean that Spain would not respect the restrictions imposed by Britain.

But the owners of the Spanish trawlers which make up the third biggest fleet that fishes the area had yesterday not decided how to react to the British restrictions.

Senor Eugenio Lopez Vega, their spokesman, speaking from the Atlantic port of Vigo on Spain's north-west coast said his organisation had no views on the sovereignty of the Falklands.

"That's a political matter", he said. He added: "We have had nothing but help and good relations with the British authorities in the region."

The Vigo-based fleet spends three months in the South Atlantic each year from February.

A British embassy spokesman in Madrid said yesterday: "We are studying the Prime Minister's reported remarks."

D. TELEGRAPH 7 NOV 86 pag 7

U. N. Leader's 'sympathy'

Our United Nations Correspondent writes: Mr. Timothy Eggar, Foreign Office Minister, told reporters in New York after meeting the United Nations Secretary General that Senor Perez De Cuellar "was understanding of our point of view" in imposing a fishery control zone around the Falklands.

Mr Eggar said that Senor Perez De Cuellar had rejected reports in the Argentine press which quoted his as having criticised the British action.

Senor Perez De Cuellar urged both sides to exercise "maximum restraint," according to United Nations sources.

D. TELEGRAPH 7 NOV 86 pag 7

119

Britain accused on fishing zone

ARGENTINA said yesterday it would fight the fishing exclusion zone around the Falklands with "all rational instruments."

In a 25-minute speech on radio and TV, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said: "This time there is no doubt the United Kingdom has taken an aggressive attitude towards us.

"Argentine democracy will not retreat in the face of British aggression."

Britain imposed a 150-mile conservation area around the Falklands a week ago, saying it was needed to counter over-fishing by fleets from various countries and "aggressive patrolling" by Argentina.

Argentina also denounced the claim at the United Nations. "This creates a new and grave source of tensions and conflicts," it said in an official note to the Secretary-General.

TODAY 6 NOV 86 pag 27

Alfonsin urged to cancel US visit

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

President Raoul Alfonsin of Argentina came under pressure from members of his Cabinet yesterday to cancel a private visit to the US where he hoped to meet President Reagan at the middle of this month, a senior government official said.

The presidential spokesman said the trip was still going ahead, but the source still insisted it had been all but cancelled in direct connection with Argentina's renewed crisis with Britain over the Falkland Islands.

Amid confusion over the Government's eventual decision, observers noted that President Alfonsin originally planned to arrive in the US for a university lecture tour on or around November 17 — shortly after a long-arranged meeting between President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher.

Hints that the visit might not go ahead were seen at least partly as a bid by senior officials to nudge President Alfonsin into avoiding direct contact with a US Government that is suspected here of backing Britain's Falklands fishing zone.

Diplomatic observers believed opposition to the trip was led by the Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo. His concern was, sources said, that Argentina's prestige — and President Alfonsin might get a at home — were at risk if the four-day trip went ahead.

This argument was that President lfonsin might get a much shorter meeting with President Reagan compared with what is seen here as a mini-summit that has already been arranged for Mrs Thatcher at Camp David on November 15 or worse still there would be no meeting at all.

The Government, meanwhile, continued its campaign to calm domestic reaction with a broadcast on national television by Mr Caputo.

The Minister said Britain's plan to declare an eventual 200-mile economic zone around the disputed islands was a "usurpation." However, his 23-minute speech mainly seemed to be an appeal over the heads of Argentina's active nationalists to the people for "rationality, and firmness but also prudence" over Britain's plans.

Argentine democracy was not going to go backwards "before a British aggression," he said.

GUARDIAN 6 NOV 86 pag 6

FIN TRANSMISION

Argentina goes on PR offensi

From JOHN FRASER,
Brussels, Tuesday

ARGENTINA has been seeking international support for its struggle against the UK's imposition of a fisheries exclusion zone around the Falklands. This has involved a personal appeal to President Reagan, and the opening of a public relations offensive in Europe.

Argentina's deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Sabato called on EEC headquarters today to put his government's case to Brussels Commissioners, and will be travelling to France, Spain, and Italy.

He roundly attacked Sir Geoffrey Howe's decision to impose the exclusion zone, which was justified as a measure to protect fish stocks, and urged the EEC to press Britain to scrap the zone.

The Argentinian Minister complained that until the Falklands war his government had been active in preventing over-fishing, but said that this had not been possible in recent years.

He suggested that if there is a problem of over-fishing it results from the UK's exclusion of Argentinian boats and agreements to allow trawlers from other countries to operate near the Falklands.

Mr Sabato claimed that the British announcement "contravenes many United Nations Assembly resolutions" which have asked for no deterioration in the status quo.

"This British measure has created new problems and put difficulties in the way of a peaceful solution to the long-running dispute between Britain and Argentina.

"If the British want peace, this isn't the best way to go about it."

The Minister refused to be drawn when asked whether his government is planning to retaliate against the imposition of the exclusion zone, which he claimed actually includes part of Argentinian land of the southern tip of South America.

"My country doesn't want a new conflict but we won't let our rights be violated," he said.

EEC Fisheries Ministers meet in Brussels tomorrow and it is likely that the Spanish and others will raise the question of Falklands fish.

The EEC does not have any authority over the waters around the Falklands, but Spain and other community countries regard the issue as an important political one.

It is likely that the topic will also be on the table on Monday, when EEC Foreign Ministers are due to hold talks in London.

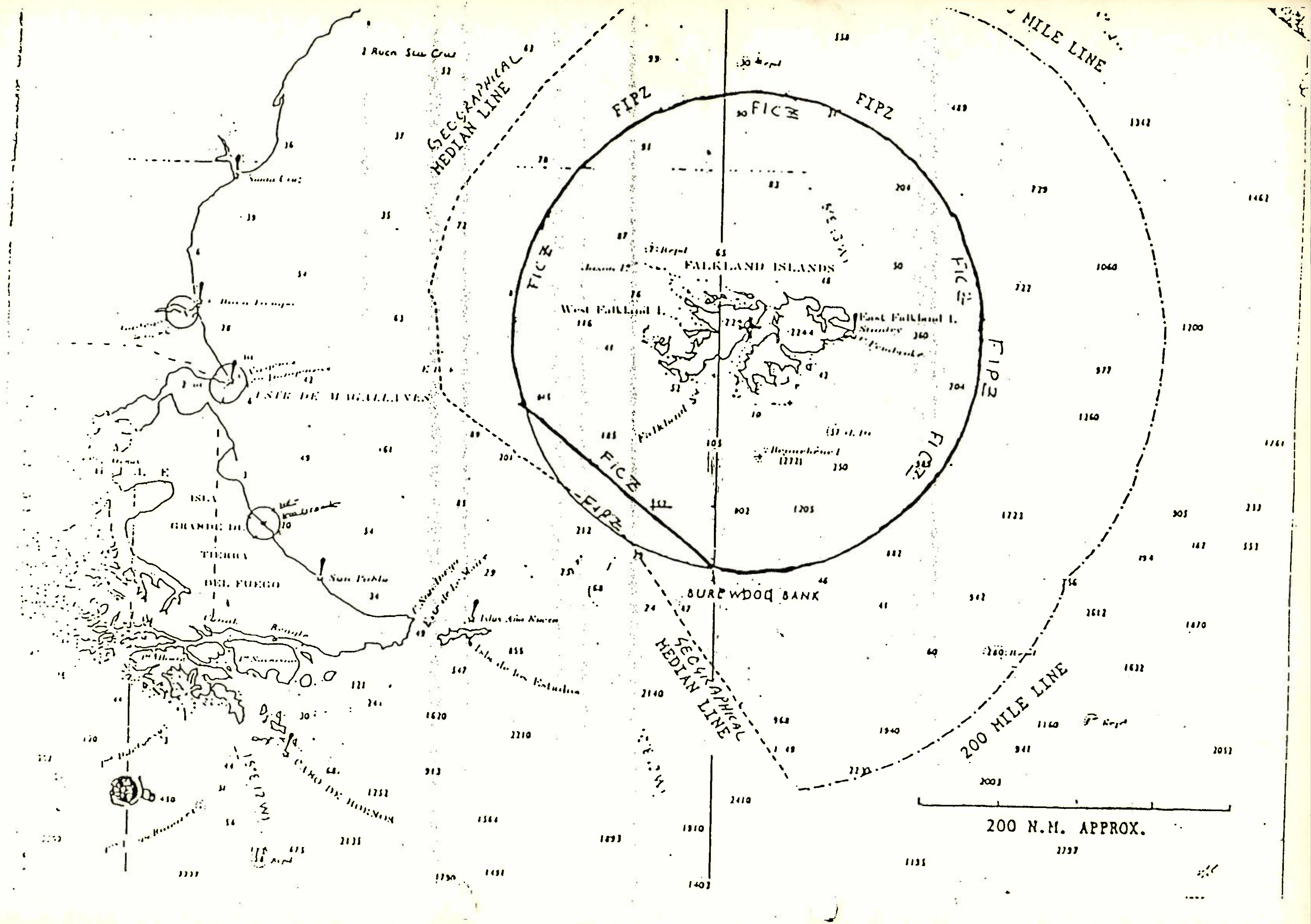
Britain has told Argentina it is willing to discuss fishing rights despite its unilateral move, diplomatic sources said today.

"Britain doesn't consider the doors closed on the affair. It has made clear to Argentina it would be happy to talk," one diplomat said.

President Raul Alfonsin has assured President Reagan that Argentina will use words and not guns in its latest dispute with Britain, a leading official said today in Buenos Aires.

Vice-President Victor Martinez said Mr Alfonsin told Mr Reagan by telephone last night that Argentina would only respond to Britain in "international forums and in peaceful ways."

GLASGOW HERALD
5 NOV 86 pag 6.



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123

Risks around the Falklands

THERE WAS a revealing exchange in the House of Commons last week when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, announced the establishment of a new fisheries conservation and management zone within a 150-mile radius of the Falkland Islands.

Mr Eric Deakins, the Labour MP for Walthamstow, asked: "How can we avoid an escalation of this dispute into another cod war?"

Sir Geoffrey replied: "By a sensible response on the part of the Argentine Government. If they were willing to respond to the moves that we have been pressing ahead with for some months and agreed to the establishment of a multilateral zone, which we regard as far preferable, there would be no question of such a risk arising."

Argentine policy

Yet the entire basis of Argentine policy to the Falklands over the years has been that it is not what Sir Geoffrey and his colleagues would call "sensible." We are now asked to believe that sense will emerge in Buenos Aires as a result of a British threat to use force, and possibly even the use of it.

For as Sir Geoffrey also said last week, and Mrs Thatcher seemed to underline in the House of Commons yesterday: "It is open to Her Majesty's Government to use armed forces in appropriate circumstances in the waters around the Falkland Islands, as well as in waters elsewhere within our jurisdiction."

There is an immediate question about how far such force is available. The waters around the Falkland Islands are vast. It will be exceedingly difficult to police them effectively. There is also the point that if conflict comes, it may not necessarily be with Argentine vessels. It could be with the Bulgarians or the Russians, with whom Argentina has concluded bilateral fisheries agreements. And there is the further thought that even if Britain does have the resources to defend such an area of the South Atlantic in the interests of fish conservation, is this the best way to deploy them? Surely they would be more useful closer to home.

The main question, however, is whether this is the best way to seek a settlement of the Falklands dispute. True, there are a great many faults on Argentina's side. It did, after all, invade the Falklands in the first place. Even under the democratic government of President Alfonsin, it refuses formally to end the state of hostilities and seeks talks only on the basis of sovereignty. As for fishing, it could have been more co-operative towards the study of the resources in the region launched by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Its bilateral agreements with Bulgaria and the Soviet Union would be quite possibly declared illegal under international law.

Yet the question still comes back to Britain: is the declaration of the zone likely to make Argentina more "sensible" in the British Government's definition of the word? The answer is almost certainly "no." Already some of the first results of the action are becoming apparent. Latin America is putting on a show of solidarity. President Garcia of Peru has been in Buenos Aires declaring his support for the Argentine position. Brazil and Uruguay have joined the Argentines in calling for a special meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of American States, which incidentally includes the US. Washington was very helpful to Britain during the Falklands War in 1982, but it can hardly welcome another Anglo-Latin American dispute—in which the US is inevitably pulled in both directions—purely over fishing rights.

Seeking support

Some of the Europeans are none too happy either. France ceased to support Britain when Argentina's annual resolution on the Falklands came up at the UN last year. The resolution, probably stronger this time, is due again shortly. An Argentine minister, Mr Jorge Sabato, is in Europe now seeking support. Other countries could follow the French.

For Britain it is becoming rather lonely. An offer of direct and unconditional talks with Buenos Aires would not come amiss.

"EDITORIAL" F. TIMES 5 NOV 86 pag 28

Tim Coone on attempts to isolate Britain in the Falklands fishing row

Argentina launches diplomatic war

THE POINT at which fishing diplomacy turns to gunboat diplomacy in the south Atlantic may well depend on more conventional forms of diplomacy taking place over the next two weeks.

Britain's announcement last month that licences would be needed for fishing up to 150 miles around the Falkland Islands from February, and its move to lay claim to sovereign rights over the sea and continental shelf up to 200 miles from the islands, has brought an abrupt end to the halting but nonetheless positive signs of a warming in relations with Argentina over the past year. According to one western diplomat, the quiet easing of trade restrictions with the UK imposed in 1982 has now been stopped dead.

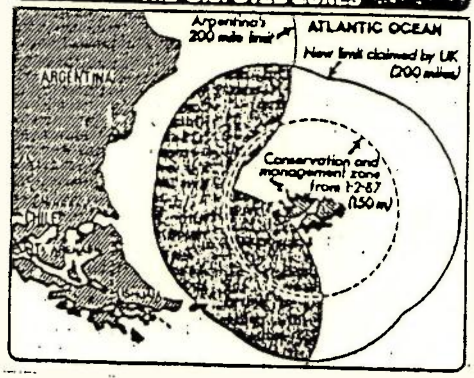
If the British reasoning had been to force the Argentinians to the negotiating table to sign a multilateral fishing agreement in the south west Atlantic, it will have been quickly disabused of that idea by Argentina's emphatic rejection of an offer to negotiate.

"It would be a trap," said Mr Dante Caputo, the Foreign Minister, on television last week while demonstrating with maps the significance of the British claim.

"What Britain wants is that we sit down to agree a fishing treaty in the south Atlantic in which the countries fishing there would be the contracting parties, with Argentina as one coastal state and Great Britain as another coastal state. If we do this we would be recognising the right of Great Britain to exercise sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands."

Instead Argentina has launched a diplomatic counterattack in the hope of isolating Britain internationally, and at the same time strengthening its own sovereignty claim. This week will prove to be a critical

THE DISPUTED ZONES



test of support for that diplomatic effort.

Mr Jorge Sabato, the Deputy Foreign Minister, has been presenting Argentina's case to Europe. Oother officials have been dispatched to Africa and Asia to summon non-aligned movement support, while the big guns of Mr Caputo and a battery of advisers are directed at this week's 16th general assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Guatemala, and will be aimed next week at the United Nations.

The aim of the diplomatic offensive is to seek a condemnation of Britain's move, arguing that it harms existing Argentina sovereign rights in the region, and to win support for Argentina's view of the sovereignty issue.

By the end of the month, strategists at the foreign ministry will be able to assess whether further responses are called for, or indeed practicable. According to Mr Caputo and high level presidential advisers, all the options are being studied and none have been ruled out as yet except that is for military action. A renewal of economic and trade sanctions against the UK, some of which might find support on the continent, especially from countries such as Peru, is one possibility.

The fishing zone will only extend as far as the Falkland Islands protection zone, that is to 150 miles from the centre of the islands, from which Argentinian boats are excluded without prior permission.

A report on the fisheries in this zone, the Beddington Report, estimates that 70 per cent of the foreign trawler catches up to the 200 mile limit now claimed around the islands, occur within the protection zone.

Trawler captains recognising British jurisdiction, will be tempted to fill their holds by going outside the 150-mile conservation zone and into the wider 200-mile zone claimed by Britain and to the good fishing grounds to the south and west of the Falklands. These are mentioned in the Beddington Report, but which are claimed and presently policed by Argentina.

In the absence of agreement with Argentina, Britain has said it will recognise a dividing line in these areas, based on international law—effectively a line drawn halfway between both claims.

If straying trawlers are harried by Argentinian coastguard vessels there, they will be tempted to make a run for the protection of the British protection zone, as did a Taiwanese trawler earlier this year, but which was sunk by the Argentinians.

On the other hand, if foreign trawlers do not recognise the British claim, and Spain has already indicated it will not, they face arrest and possible conflict with British patrol vessels from February onwards if they enter the zone. This could create serious problems between Britain and Eastern Europe and even with other member countries of the EEC.

However, the country with the biggest catches in the south Atlantic, Poland, has chosen so far to remain neutral. Accord-

cont sig pag

FINANCIAL TIMES 12 NOV 86 pag 4

de la pag anterior

ing to the Polish ambassador in Buenos Aires "Argentina has made an offer of a bilateral fishing agreement, but there are no negotiations on this yet or even considerations of nego-negotiations."

Poland after all stands to lose the most if it makes the wrong political choice. According to the Beddington Report, the Polish catch within the fishing zone in the first nine months of 1985 was 100,000 tons, twice that of Argentina's own factory ship fleet in the south Atlantic.

That choice may nonetheless be greatly influenced by what happens this week in Guatemala. If Argentina gets the support it is looking for, the British Government may find itself with few takers for licences when February comes.

FINANCIAL TIMES 12 NOV 86 pag 4

Fishing zone criticised

The Organisation of American States approved a resolution criticising Britain for declaring a fisheries conservation area around the disputed Falkland Islands. Background, Page 4

FINANCIAL TIMES 12 NOV 86 pag 1

US expresses disappointment over dispute

THE US has expressed disappointment over growing tensions between Argentina and Britain following Britain's declaration of a fisheries conservation area around the disputed Falklands Islands, Reuter reports from Guatemala City.

"We are disappointed that Argentina and the UK have not been able to work out their differences over the Malvinas," a US official said on Monday following a meeting between Mr Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State.

Mr Shultz arrived in Guatemala on Monday night to address the annual meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

He said the Anglo-Argentine dispute was "an important act of conservation and fishing rights."

But he said the US was not taking part in the dispute and was not mediating.

"I am not a candidate for a shuttle," he said in a reference to former US Secretary of State Alexander Haig's unsuccessful attempt to mediate in the Falklands dispute before the 1982 conflict.

Though some diplomatic observers had expected the US to take a stronger stand on the Falklands issue, Mr Caputo said Mr Shultz had demonstrated US "concern" over the territorial dispute.

The OAS was expected to issue a resolution urging Britain to drop the 150-mile conservation zone to avoid further conflict with Argentina.

FINANCIAL TIMES 12 NOV 86 pag 4

Spain derides 'mad' task force report

From Paul Ellman
in Madrid

The Spanish Defence Ministry yesterday dismissed as "madness" a report that it would send a naval task force to protect fishing boats that defied planned restrictions on fishing around the Falkland Islands.

It pointed out that the vessel which a British newspaper claimed would spearhead the task force was not expected to be commissioned until the end of next year at the earliest.

The ministry was commenting on a report that the 15,000-ton aircraft carrier, the Principe de Asturias, was being speedily completed to sail for the South Atlantic when regulations requiring permits to fish within the Falklands conservation zone take effect next February.

Privately, it was suggested in Madrid that the story had been planted as part of British efforts to force the Spanish Government to clarify its policy on the Falklands fishing issue. Last week, the Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, said that Spanish vessels would ignore the restrictions imposed by Britain within a 150-mile radius of the archipelago.

The Principe de Aturias, which will have a "ski jump" flight deck like the present generation of British carriers, is being built under licence from the United States at a yard in the Northern province of Galicia.

The carrier, which will carry a squadron of US-made jump jets derived from the Harrier, is scheduled to operate with a flotilla of four anti-submarine frigates.

So far, however, only two of the frigates are operational. A third is to be delivered next year while the keel of the fourth has yet to be laid.

The naval group will provide Spain with its first modern warship to replace an ageing fleet of destroyers and corvettes and its present flagship, the aircraft carrier, Dedalo, which was launched in 1944.

The Spanish navy at present has no vessels capable of operating in the South Atlantic and, as officials in Madrid stressed yesterday, has no future plans to play a role in the area.

GUARDIAN 12 NOV 86 pag 8

Falklands lessons put to the test in Oman

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

Lessons learnt by the British Armed Forces during and since the Falklands conflict are to be tested in an important exercise in Oman later this month.

It will involve 4,750 men from the Army, Royal Navy and Air Force and will test Britain's ability to mount a rapid strategic deployment outside the Nato area.

The scenario for the operation, a combined exercise with the Omani Armed Forces, is an imagined request for help from the Sultan for aid in repulsing an incursion.

Defence chiefs in charge of the exercise emphasized yesterday that the choice of Oman does not relate to any British political or military contingency planning for the area, including the Gulf or the Middle East.

The Omanis, however, see the exercise – codenamed Saif Sareea (Swift Sword) – as a useful display to any potential aggressors that their defence agreements with Britain have real teeth and that substantial forces can be quickly and effectively deployed from Britain.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, the exercise director, said yesterday that the exercise would provide a series of "firsts" for the forces. It will be the first time since the Falklands campaign that a joint, three-service force of this size has participated in a live exercise outside the Nato area.

It will require, for the first time, the activation of tri-service headquarters, both in Britain and on the ground, putting into action a plan developed by the Chief of Staff after the Falklands campaign.

The exercise will involve naval ships, including the carrier Illustrious, elements of 40 Commando Royal Marines, the Fifth Airborne Brigade, and one battalion of The Parachute Regiment.

TIMES 12 NOV 86 pag 5

FIN TRANSMISION

Belgrano survivor takes UK to court

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

A conscript soldier who survived the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano during the Falklands war has sued the United Kingdom for the psychological and physical injuries he allegedly suffered as a result, it was revealed yesterday.

The suit was filed in Buenos Aires by Señor Juan Carlos Heinze and is considered to be a test case. Its outcome will determine whether an estimated 380 similar actions, now being prepared by the survivors and relatives of those who died in the attack, will go before the Argentine courts.

The Belgrano was sunk by a British submarine on May 2 1984. At least 313 Argentine soldiers are believed to have died in what was to become the deadliest single attack of the 64-day war.

Señor Heinze spent two days on a lifeboat before he was rescued by a hospital ship.

He claims to have suffered serious psychological and physical injuries that have resulted in a permanent limp and in a considerable reduction of his ability to walk. Although the amount of compensation sought is not mentioned, the suit asks for "the highest sum of money ever awarded in the history of Argentine law".

The suit argues that the sinking of the Belgrano and the subsequent injuries suffered by Señor Heinze were the product of "an act that was clearly and unequivocably illegitimate" because at the time of the attack the Belgrano was outside the British-declared "exclusion zone" around the Falklands

As a result, the suit concludes the attack represents "one of the most unjustifiable violations of the rights of people and of all the ethical and judicial norms erected by mankind to protect the right to life."

TIMES (P. 14). 11 NOVIEMBRE 86.

FIN TRANSMISION

Tory MPs fear policy split on Falklands

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Senior Conservative MPs are increasingly concerned about what they believe is a growing division on future Falklands policy between two government departments.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, are likely to be invited to appear before the select committee on defence to answer questions about Sir Geoffrey's announcement of a 150-mile fishing exclusion zone around the islands.

Ostensibly the questioning would concern the practicalities of policing the zone, but MPs suspect that the announcement was motivated by Foreign Office self-interest as well as by a desire to conserve fish stocks.

They believe a heightening of tension in Anglo-Argentine relations will strengthen the hand of the Foreign Office, which is determined to maintain a strong garrison in the Falklands. Mr Younger, by contrast, is under considerable pressure to reduce the garrison in order to alleviate an already overstretched defence budget.

TIMES 31 OCTUBRE '86

pag 2.

Falklands alert over Spanish Armada

EXCLUSIVE BY ELLIS PLAICE

BRITAIN and Spain were heading for a clash on the high seas last night over the Falklands fishing zone.

A Spanish naval strike force has been put on alert to sail to the South Atlantic. The country's most powerful warship may join the fleet. Officially, the ships would be on a "familiarisation mission" in the region.

But Spanish fishing fleet skippers are convinced their navy is on alert to help them, according to radio messages intercepted by intelligence sources.

Confidential reports suggest the Spanish defence ministry has been given orders and special funds to prepare the 15,000-ton carrier Principe de Asturias by February 1.

It would be a race against time to complete the new warship in the 10 weeks before the Spanish fishing fleet sets sail for a three-month cruise of the South Atlantic.

Officers from the Asturias are going south in other ships to learn how to operate with the fishermen.

Trawlers have been ordered to repaint registration letters to make sure they can be identified in even the worst weather, and to renew all national flags and recognition banners.

Jets

Unless the row is settled by diplomats, the Royal Navy might have to confront opponents patrolling with Harrier jump jets —vital to the British victory in the Falklands.

The plane has been sold to Spain and renamed the Matador.

Spain supports Argentina's claims to the Falklands, which led to the war with Britain in 1982.

Spanish premier Felipe Gonzales said at the weekend that his government would not recognise the 150-mile "conservation and management" fishing zone the Falklanders have declared round the islands with Whitehall backing.

Applying for fishing permits, as ordered, would mean recognising British sovereignty, he said.

Officially, Britain is keeping a diplomatic distance from the dispute by claiming that the zone will be administered and policed by the Falklands government with just two tiny chartered patrol boats.

But aircraft and ships of the British garrison would be ordered into action if the Falklanders asked for help.

Worried

Nato officials are privately worried and angry at the prospect of two alliance allies going into a battle as they did over the Icelandic cod war.

One American officer said: "Twice in my career I have had to watch allies going to 'war' — not over gold or oil, but goddam fish."

US, Latin America 'clash' at OAS

From John Carlin
in Guatemala City

A General Assembly meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) officially opened here yesterday with the Falklands and Central America at the top of the agenda — two issues which look set to provoke a clash between the United States and Latin America as well as test Washington's traditional domination of this 31-country forum.

Parallel to the six-day General Assembly, a biannual event, Argentina has called for an extraordinary meeting today of the OAS Permanent Council to examine possible joint action against what the Alfonsín government has denounced as British "provocation" in imposing a fishing limit of 200 nautical miles around the Falkland Islands. The OAS Permanent Council consists of the foreign ministers of all the countries represented in the OAS, that is to say all the Americas except Cuba.

The four countries of the Contadora group — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama — plus the four in the so-called Contadora "support group" — Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Peru — are likely to be at loggerheads with the United States over what they perceive to be the Reagan administration's continual thwarting of the Central American peace effort.

Reagan policy has always been to back its Nato ally Britain over its OAS ally Argentina on the Falklands issue. In Central America, the hundreds of millions of dollars the US has spent in armaments and military training to try and squash the revolutionary Left has run counter to the key Contadora doctrine of non-intervention.

As a consequence, the US, whose delegation is headed by Secretary of State George Shultz, finds itself facing the unusual prospect of being in the losing side in not just one, but two, key OAS votes.

The strongest weapon in the OAS armoury was always supposed to be the Rio Treaty, a pact signed in 1947 whereby the states of North, Central and South America pledged to join forces in the case of "extracontinental" attack on any of the member countries. Argentina duly invoked the Rio Treaty during the Falklands War and was turned down at an extraordinary OAS meeting after what is now generally accepted to have been considerable diplomatic pressure from Washington.

The climate today, however, is vastly different. Raúl Alfonsín seeks support at a time when debt-induced economic crises and the threat of American-inspired war in Central America has drawn together Latin American governments in a spirit of unity.

INDEPENDENT (P.10)
11 NOVIEMBRE 86

hoja 2 de un total de 6 hojas

OAS attack on Britain

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

The 16th annual meeting of the Organization of American States began here yesterday with the Secretary-General strongly condemning Britain for creating a new crisis over the Falkland Islands by extending its claim to territorial waters around the islands.

In his opening speech the Secretary-General, Senhor João Clemente Baena Soares, accused Britain of "a unilateral act" which "has precipitated an exacerbation of tension in an area regarded as a zone of peace".

Diplomatic and political observers said the new Falkland crisis is expected to be the central topic of debate during the five-day meeting.

TIMES (P.14) 11 NOVIEMBRE 86.

B4

Falklands top agenda for American states

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

The latest dispute between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands is expected to dominate the Organization of American States annual meeting which opens in Guatemala City today.

As requested by Argentina, there will be a special meeting of the organization's Permanent Council which is composed of foreign ministers from the member states.

This extraordinary session, scheduled for tomorrow, is expected to pass a resolution critical of Britain. In addition the General Assembly will debate the Falkland issue as it has every year since the 1982 conflict.

The new crisis has erupted after Britain's declaration of a 150-nautical-mile fishing zone around the islands. Argentina, protesting that the zone overlaps with its territorial waters, has reactivated its 150-year-old claim to the islands.

A high-ranking Western diplomat in Guatemala said that Britain "has no support whatsoever from Latin America" but does have a "little support" from some Caribbean members of the organization. He said the role of the United States at the conference, where Britain is not represented, will be "pressure to tone down the resolution".

One of two versions of the resolution is likely to be passed. The first alternative would support Argentina's claim for sovereignty, while the second would call for Britain and Argentina to negotiate a peaceful settlement and to discuss the question of sovereignty over the islands.

Diplomatic sources say that Mrs Margaret Thatcher finds both resolutions "unacceptable" while the second alternative would "probably be acceptable" to the Reagan Administration.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is due to attend the beginning of the five-day meeting and is expected to hold private talks with Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Well-informed sources say the other topics likely to be discussed during the organization's 16th annual session are the war in Nicaragua and the stalemate of the Contadora Group peace effort, Latin America's external debts and drug trafficking.

TIMES (P. 7)

10 NOVIEMBRE 1986

Britain in for bashing at OAS session

From John Carlin
in Mexico City

THE FALKLANDS fishing limits dispute, which has prompted indignation throughout Latin America, is expected to dominate the week-long general assembly meeting of the Organisation of American States starting in Guatemala today.

Diplomats say Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister heading his country's OAS delegation, will press hard for a joint resolution condemning Britain for what he has described as a "new usurpation" of Argentine territory.

The bulk of the 31-member OAS — comprising every country in North, Central and South America except Cuba — appears certain to rally behind Argentina in what Latin American political observers expect will be an enthusiastic exercise in Britain-bashing.

When Britain made headlines around Latin America with its imposition of a 150-mile interim fishery conservation zone around the Falkland Islands, the governments of Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay and others were quick to denounce what was widely described as another example of "agressive colonialism" in action.

The escalating conflict in Central America is bound to be another important issue at the meeting. But since the Latin American position on such key matters as Nicaragua and the Contadora Group is increasingly divided, diplomats believe the OAS Secretary-General, Brazil's Joao Clemente Baena Soares, will be keen to highlight the one issue on which an image of Latin American unity can be energetically projected.

But if the Argentine bid to intensify diplomatic pressure on Britain is sure to find an echo among Latin Americans, the American response is less certain.

Washington's reaction so far to the latest Falklands development has been, in the words of one European diplomat, one of "stunning silence". The Secretary of State, George Shultz, who is representing the US at the meeting, is due to hold bilateral talks this evening with Mr Caputo, who is likely to prevail on him to show his government's hand.

What Mr Shultz says will be of particular interest to British officials monitoring the meeting. The US, eager to win allies for its controversial Central American policy, may judge the time is right to abandon its position of the last four years on the Falklands issue and subscribe to an OAS resolution highly critical of the British government.

Of interest too will be whether Latin American governments at the meeting decide to give teeth to their rhetoric and impose economic sanctions on Britain, thus raising still further the cost of Mrs Thatcher's Falklands policy.

THE INDEPENDENT (P. 12)
10 NOVIEMBRE 1986 -

FIN TRANSMISION -

Fairness and the Falklands

Jimmy Burns

It is always hard for the victors to appreciate whatever case the vanquished may have. The former *Financial Times* correspondent in Buenos Aires thinks that in the dispute over the Falkland Islands, Mrs Thatcher's government has not always been so reasonable as it has itself believed.

Relations between Britain and Argentina have this week reached their lowest point since the Falklands war of 1982. Sir Geoffrey Howe's announcement in the House of Commons on 29 October that Britain was unilaterally setting up a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands has raised nationalist feelings in Argentina to fever pitch, forced the government of Raul Alfonsin to cancel all military leave, and unleashed a flurry of hostile diplomatic activity. To quote the ominous statement issued by the Argentine government after an emergency cabinet session with the country's defence chiefs, the British action could cause serious tension with "unforeseeable consequences which may also affect the interests of third countries".

To those of us who watched at close quarters the run-up to the 1982 war, the sequence of events over the last week smacks of *déjà vu*. Although it seems highly unlikely that either side would wish to go as far as to opt for a repeat performance, there is now at least an outside chance of a serious incident developing in the coming months. About the only thing both parties to the dispute seem to have agreed on is that the current row has very little to do with fish and everything to do with sovereignty.

In his statement to the House of Commons, Sir Geoffrey emphasised that the reason for the British government's decision was concern at the rapid increase in fishing in the south-western Atlantic. According to figures released by the Foreign Office, about 600 trawlers of various nationalities, most of them from the Soviet Union and other East European countries, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, have been fishing more or less without restraint throughout 1986. This compared with 485 in 1985 and 250 in 1984. The increase in activity after the war had greatly depleted fishing stocks, endangering the survival of the Falkland Islands' potentially single most important natural resource.

Sir Geoffrey, however, was clearly not about to join the "Greens". Argentina, he said, had "underminded" Britain's attempts to solve the fisheries problem by international agreement. Worse still, Argentina had embarked on "aggressive patrolling" more than 200 miles from its southern region of Patagonia and within 200 miles of the Falklands. Finally, Buenos Aires had concluded bilateral fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria through which it purported "to exercise jurisdiction that is, as a matter of international law, the entitlement of the Falkland Islands".

The Alfonsin government has also made its concern about conservation known. Five months ago it agreed to collaborate in a feasibility study of the marine resources of the South Atlantic planned by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. A report subsequently prepared by Argentina's National Institute of Maritime Investigation (Inidep) warned of the risk of extinction of certain species such as squid

THE TABLET.
8 NOVIEMBRE 86

CONT. PAG. SIG.

and blue whiting. Inidep extended its analysis to include a reference to the potential of the Argentine fishing fleet and what it alleged was the effectiveness of Argentine regulation prior to the 1982 Falklands war. Inidep implicitly reaffirmed Argentina's claim to the Falklands and its surrounding sea, and the country's readiness to exercise effective policing over the entire area. Argentina's Plan Neptuno — a deliberate policy of stepping up its patrols within its own 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone off the mainland and regulating catch through bilateral deals with third countries — brought sovereignty to the centre of the Falklands debate.

Failed exchanges

Foreign Office officials picking up the pieces after Sir Geoffrey's speech — for it appears that the virulence of the diplomatic fall-out surprised even them — privately expressed their bafflement that an Argentine government which boasts full democratic credentials and claims to be totally district from the regime of the juntas which preceded it, should remain so myopic about the Falklands. The official British line is that since the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsin in December 1984, Mrs Thatcher has made all the conciliatory overtures. She sent the new president a congratulatory telegram in which she stated that "although we have many differences we can all take pleasure in the restoration of democracy to Argentina, believing it will bring freedom and justice to all your people", and which affirmed that "today brings new hope to your country". The British government subsequently initiated a series of confidential exchanges through the "protecting powers" of Brazil and Switzerland, suggesting some ideas for the restoration of bilateral relations which included improved commercial, financial, cultural, scientific, and sports links, renewed flights on the London — Buenos Aires — London route, and a gradual restoration of full diplomatic representation. In July 1984 the first bilateral talks between the two countries since the end of the war took place in Berne, Switzerland. The prior arrangement was that the Argentine team would raise the question of sovereignty; British officials would then state that they were not prepared to discuss it; the talks were then expected to move on to practical issues.

In fact the talks broke down prematurely when the Argentines insisted on linkage between future practical measures and proposals for a mechanism to discuss sovereignty. One year later Britain unilaterally lifted the ban on imports from Argentina. At the beginning of this year it suggested that Argentina should join with it in a multilateral approach to the fisheries question . . .

This chronology is not only incomplete but, taken outside a wider historical context, distorts rather than clarifies recent events. President Alfonsin risked his political career by refusing to join the public euphoria surrounding the invasion. Before his inauguration, he gave the London *Observer* a wide-ranging interview in which he hinted strongly that Argentina would declare a cessation of hostilities if Britain lifted the military exclusion zone around the islands, said he was prepared to discuss lease-back as an interim solution on sovereignty, and expressed his hope that now that democracy had been established in Argentina Mrs Thatcher would no longer see any objection to getting round the negotiating table. None of these suggestions met with any substantial response from London. On the contrary, Mrs Thatcher's telegram appears to have been extracted by the Foreign Office with great difficulty, like blood out of a stone. British diplomats argued privately that Whitehall needed to be seen to be present at least in spirit at Alfonsin's inauguration, given that the Argentine president had managed to gather an impressive list of world government figures including EEC leaders and the United States vice-president, George Bush.

Subsequently the Foreign Office did indeed send confidential notes suggesting practical measures. In private, these were well received in Buenos Aires. In the public domain, however, the Argentine government was repeatedly confronted with statements from British public officials specifically ruling out even an open-ended agenda which included sovereignty

THE TABLET
8 NOVIEMBRE 86

It is true that successive Argentine government statements have also been intransigent on the question of sovereignty. But these statements, were sometimes less categorical; for instance, there was talk in Buenos Aires of a two-tier approach in which practical issues could be talked about first and sovereignty left for a later date. "We are not saying we want sovereignty tomorrow," Argentine officials insisted, time and time again.

Great expectations

Yet what was being offered by Britain was a great deal less than had been offered to much bloodier regimes than Alfonsin's and with which London had maintained excellent diplomatic, commercial, and cultural links. In 1966 during the government of General Juan Carlos Ongania — best remembered by the Argentines for the "night of the long sticks" in which the army stormed Buenos Aires university and cracked the skulls of all the teachers — the then foreign secretary, Michael Stewart, had accepted that reaching some agreement with Buenos Aires on the issue of sovereignty was a prerequisite for improved trade. In 1980, during the junta of General Videla — best remembered by the Argentines as the man most responsible for torture on a massive scale and the "disappearance" of over 8,000 Argentines — the then junior minister at the Foreign Office, now secretary of state for the environment, Nicholas Ridley, won the support of half the Thatcher cabinet for a lease-back arrangement whereby sovereignty would be granted to Argentina and the islands would continue to be administered by Britain. It was quashed by the pre-Falklands lobby of the House of Commons under intense pressure from a vociferous group of islanders. Following the Falklands war, Mrs Thatcher's distaste for anything suggestive of appeasement with Argentina was demonstrated in her stormy political divorce from Francis Pym (her "wet" foreign secretary), and her public outburst against Archbishop Runcie when he prayed for the dead of both sides during a remembrance service in St Paul's. When a group of Argentine MP's came on a goodwill mission to London earlier this year, she promptly despatched her secretary of state in charge of Latin America, Baroness Young, to the Falklands.

Writing on modern Spain, Professor Raymond Carr has talked about the "psychology of great expectations falsified". Perhaps Alfonsin's tragic flaw as a politician is in having expected too much. And yet one can hardly blame him. In his two and a half years of government he has signed a peace treaty with Chile over the Beagle Channel, tried and condemned three juntas for their violations of human rights and their misconduct of the Falklands war, and steered his country through social, political and economic tensions of a sort which most industrialised nations have had more than a century to deal with. His democracy is quite clearly incomplete — he has yet fully to convince the military that the nation no longer owes them a favour; he is still faced with a highly politicised trade union movement; he must deal with the inevitable by products of freedom — drug addiction, sexual permissiveness, crime, and unemployment — which together contribute to a measure of moral disorientation. In his inability to take fully into account the feelings of the Falkland Islanders, he has yet to realise that in a truly pluralist society the opinions of minorities do count. Mrs Thatcher should recognise that such problems are not insurmountable, and yet she appears to regard Mr Alfonsin as she regarded Galtieri — with deep distrust.

The events of the last week have produced a dangerous impasse. They could have been avoided had the dawning of Argentina's democracy generated a more magnanimous British response.

Jimmy Burns's book on Argentina and the Falklands, and Alfonsin will be published in the spring of 1987 by Bloomsbury Publishing.

THE TABLET
8 NOVIEMBRE 86

Argentina in peace pledge

Argentina will work peacefully to resolve a conflict with Britain over fishing rights near the Falkland Islands, the Defence Minister Senor Jose Jaunarena, has announced.

He told reporters in Mar Del Plata that Argentina does not want "warlike action" to develop over Britain's declaration of a 200-mile exclusive fishing zone around the island.—A P

DAILY TELEGRAPH (P.6)
8 NOVIEMBRE 1986

Fisheries protection zone

UN chief stays out of Falklands row

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, has said he understands the British decision to impose a fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands contrary to Argentine reports, according to Mr Timothy Eggar, the Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that in a telephone conversation last week, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar told President Alfonsín that he considered the British proclamation a provocation against the Argentines.

President Alfonsín is said to have urged the Secretary-General to try to persuade the British Government to enter negotiations on the sovereignty of the islands.

But following a meeting with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, Mr Eggar quashed suggestions that the Secretary-General had sided with Argentina in the latest turn in the Falklands dispute, saying that the UN leader "was understanding of our point of view".

Since his failure to secure a negotiated settlement between the two sides when the Falklands war broke out in 1982, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar has refused to put pressure on the British Government to enter into negotiations with Argentina on the question of sovereignty.

However, he is technically mandated by the General Assembly to pursue the matter.

His contribution has consisted of an annual exchange of letters with the two governments informing them of his mandate followed by a report to the Assembly containing the predictable responses from each side.

It is not clear whether the fisheries exclusion zone will have an impact on the debate in the Assembly later this month.

Although Argentina has promised to pursue all the diplomatic channels at its disposal to chasten the British Government, it does not want to risk losing support for its campaign.

It has been honed down over the years to secure the maximum number of votes on a resolution enjoining Britain to negotiate all aspects of the Falklands dispute.

● MADRID: Spain will not be instructing its fishing fleets to seek licences from Britain when the 150-mile zone around the Falklands comes into force next February, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, told Latin American journalists (Richard Wigg writes).

Reiterating the position already taken by the Madrid Foreign Ministry when the decision was first announced, Señor González emphasized how Spain could not recognise any other sovereignty than Argentina's over the islands.

The British Government's decision was incompatible with international law, maintained Señor González, speaking only a few days before leaving for a visit to Cuba, Peru and Equador.

He refused, however, to accept a South American journalist describing the decision as "piracy". Spain is the most important EEC country fishing in South Atlantic waters.

TIMES 7NOV86 Pag 12

Defence

Settlement delights ministry

Officials at the Ministry of Defence were delighted last night at their treatment in the Chancellor's autumn statement.

The spending plans detailed by Mr Lawson yesterday mean that the defence budget for the year 1989-90 will rise by almost £500 million to a total of £19.47 billion. Officials said the figure represented a real decrease of 0.25 per cent.

In the three years to 1988-89, the department had suffered cuts totalling 6 per cent.

The ministry has also succeeded in persuading the Treasury that from 1990 the cost of the Falklands operation will be included in the general defence budget, rather than having to be negotiated as an extra.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, had argued fiercely in the so-called "star chamber" of ministers that his department had borne more than its fair share of cuts in earlier years.

TIMES 7 NOV 86 pg 4

US Falklands line annoys Britain

By Hella Pick, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain is deeply disappointed by the Reagan administration's decision to join the other members of the Organisation of American States in censuring the Government's

Leader comment, page 16

unilateral imposition of a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

But officials yesterday insisted that the US could not have acted differently in the context of the OAS meeting, and that Mr George Shultz had sought to water down the OAS resolution against Britain.

During the Falklands war the United States gave Britain logistical support as well as help with intelligence-gathering, even though this risked compromising its relations with Latin American governments.

But since 1982 the US has voted in support of UN resolutions, calling for a negotiated solution to the rival claims for the islands' sovereignty.

Even so, it is hardly welcome in London that Mr Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has now voted in support of an OAS resolution that expresses "strong concern over the new element of tension and potential conflict, introduced by the declaration of October 29 (Britain's declaration of the fishing zone) and which urges Britain as well as Argentina "not to take actions that introduce changes in the already delicate situation."

The Americans are said to have been forthright in expressing their displeasure with the government's imposition of the fishing zone around the Falklands, arguing that this was unnecessarily provocative and further complicated any attempt to secure a negotiated settlement between Britain and Argentina on the sovereignty issue.

The US, even if it supported Mrs Thatcher during the Falklands war, has long felt that Britain is too inflexible on the sovereignty issue, and that the Government should be more ready to negotiate with Argentina, now that it has a democratically elected government. The government's decision to impose the fishing zone, and its warning of military action against unlicensed trawlers inside the area is said to have angered Washington.

The Administration has not been impressed with the flood of explanations from Whitehall, justifying the move almost entirely in terms of the urgent necessity of conserving the area's fisheries resources. Britain maintains that it has been trying vainly to secure a multilateral agreement on fisheries conservation in the Falklands, but that this has been thwarted by Argentina, which has successfully slowed negotiations undertaken under the auspices of the World Food and Agricultural Organisation.

In further justification of its action Britain has complained that Argentina, in signing fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, deliberately set out to provoke Britain by encouraging these two countries to fish near the Falklands, and writing Argentina's sovereignty claims into both agreements.

But the British case has won very little sympathy. Spain, with its close links to Argentina, was among the first to condemn the British move, and has warned that its trawlers are unlikely to apply for fishing licences from Britain.

The Soviet Union has criticised the British move but has not said what it intends to do about its future fishing around the Falklands. The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is said to be optimistic that the Russians will avoid any situation that risks a clash with the Royal Navy in the Falklands.

The new fishing season begins in February. But well in advance of this, Britain's ability to assert its rule over the fisheries zone will be tested by the extent that trawlers from other countries apply for fisheries licences.

Alex Brummer in Washington adds: The Reagan Administration signalled yesterday that it will continue to tilt towards Argentina in the fishing dispute even if it makes for a few rough moments when Mrs Thatcher holds talks with Mr Shultz and President Reagan this weekend.

The White House disclosed yesterday that President Reagan had telephoned the Argentine leader, Mr Raul Alfonsin, on November 3, to express US concern about the establishment of the fishing limit. American officials say the status of the Falklands will be high on the agenda when the two presidents meet in Washington next week.

American officials said the situation in Argentina now was entirely different from that in 1982, during the Falkands war, when Argentina was run by an insensitive military dictator. It was noted that President Alfonsin would be at the White House next week and the US wanted to do everything possible to encourage its "emergent democracy."

GUARDIAN 13NOV86 paginas 1 y 36

Alfonsin to meet Reagan over Falklands fishing row

BY OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan is to meet Argentine President Raul Alfonsin next week in talks which are expected to touch on Britain's declaration of an exclusive 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

The meeting will follow this weekend's talks between the US President and the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, at Camp David.

Mrs Thatcher will be briefed on the Reykjavik summit. But the Falklands dispute is also expected to be discussed. The date of President Alfonsin's meeting with Mr Reagan has still to be fixed. Mr Alfonsin's visit to the US on Monday was planned some time ago and will include trips to Atlanta and Yale University.

The US, which supported the UK during the 1982 war with Argentina in th south Atlantic, has shifted its position to neutrality in the latest disputes over fishing rights.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, expressed hope during his brief trip to Guatemala this week, that the UK and Argentina could resolve their differences.

The Organisation of American States yesterday agreed a mildly-worded resolution expressing strong concern that Britain's declaration of a 150-mile fishing zone introduced a new element of tension.

But in a rebuff to Argentina it added: "The conservation of fisheries resources is a matter of international concern whose achievement should not be frustrated by the sovereignty dispute and which should not be used as an argument in the dispute over sovereignty.

The Food and Agricultural Organisations, a United Nations body based in Rome, is shortly to report on how the disputed fishing territories—one of the few remaining unregulated zones in the world—is being affected by heavy fishing.

An Argentine diplomat in Washington said yesterday that his Government had concluded agreements with Bulgaria and the Soviet Union on fishing in the disputed areas. It was also negotiating with a number of other foreign powers, including Spain.

FINANCIAL TIMES 13 NOV 86 pag 5

Fishing zone snub by US

PRESIDENT Reagan looks likely to discuss the fishing zone which Britain has imposed around the Falklands with Argentina's President Alfonsin when he visits America next week. Yesterday the US joined members of the Organisation of American States in criticising Britain's action.

TODAY 13 NOV 86 pag 15

FIN TRANSMISION -

BBC WORLD SERVICE
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS
NOVEMBER 7, 1986
20.09

PRESENTER:

When, on October 29th, Britain declared its fisheries protection zone around the Falkland Islands, opposition from Argentina must have been expected. Though the zone is carefully drawn to avoid a clash with that country. Buenos Aires has indeed launched a diplomatic offensive against the zone. But in the meantime, from inside the European Community, Spain has stepped into the fray. Tim Grant-Smith has been following the diplomacy.

TIM GRANT-SMITH: (phonetic)

Next week the Organisation of American States meets in Guatemala and Argentina will clearly be seeking the backing of the continent in its diplomatic offensive against the Falklands Fishery Conservation Zone. Britain has tried hard to avoid just such a diplomatic row, and feels its motives have not been understood. Lady Young, a Foreign Office Minister, outlined the reasoning.

LADY YOUNG:

We have a very real problem. The waters of the South Atlantic and around the Falkland Islands are the only unregulated fishing grounds in the entire world, and the problem is therefore one of the conservation of the fish stocks. We know that although the fin fish are so far all right, that there is already an over-fishing of squid, and if it continues there will be no fish for any of the fishing nations to have. And we therefore believe that it is essential that we should act upon this.

TIM GRANT-SMITH:

Britain and Argentina have both been co-operating with a technical study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation into the fisheries, which it's hoped will lead to a multilateral protection zone, without prejudice to either side's position on sovereignty. But as Lady Young explains, the matter could not wait.

LADY YOUNG:

We have a timing problem, the next fishing season begins in January 1987. We know that we're not going to get the technical study from FAO until December. We know, too, that the fishing boats set out from distant places like Japan and Korea about now, and we believe that it would be quite wrong for them to arrive and find something in place of which they were not forewarned. So we felt that we had to act because we have a problem, because the next fishing season starts, but it is an interim measure.

I think there has been some misunderstanding and confusion about what we have said. We have declared a 200-mile limit which, of course, is in conformity with international law, and with the United Nations Law for the Sea Convention, covering the continental shelf as well. But the actual conservation zone is 150 miles. It is almost co-terminus with our Falkland Islands protection zone, but has been deliberately altered in order not to cross the median line with Argentina.

TIM GRANT-SMITH:

The diplomatic row, however, is not confined to Latin America. Spain has a large fleet of some thirty vessels fishing in the Falklands and supports Argentina's claim to sovereignty.

The Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, is about to visit Latin America, and told Latin American journalists this week that Spanish vessels would not apply for Falklands fishing permits, because this implied recognition of British sovereignty.

Lady Young was asked about the Spanish attitude.

LADY YOUNG:
They have always made quite plain their view about sovereignty over the Falklands. But I think we ought not to confuse sovereignty and this conservation problem. And I hope, of course we have only see press comment and you would not, I think, expect me, as a Minister, to comment on that. But we shall get the official position from the Ministry.

TIM GRANT-SMITH:
That, however, is probably going ~~to~~ take some time. The Spanish Foreign Ministry declined to make any comment to me today, stressing that Mr Gonzalez' remarks were not official. And his office said I should, of course, realise the context the reported remarks were made in. He could hardly have said anything else at the time.

His spokesman noted that the Prime Minister also stressed that Spain abhorred the use of force or confrontation to settle any dispute, and pointed out that there were several months in which the issue could be sorted out between fellow members of the European Community.

PRESENTER:
That report was from Tim Grant-Smith.

END

BBC RADIO FOUR
WORLD THIS WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 9, 1986
13.00

PRESENTER:

The news that our EEC partner, Spain, is proposing to ignore Britain's fishing conservation zone, 150 miles around the Falklands, seems hardly to have caused a ripple in diplomatic circles. Yet, the announcement made last Thursday by the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzales, could cause considerable problems when the measures come into force at the beginning of the fishing season next February.

While Mr Gonzales was speaking, Britain's Foreign Office Minister, Tim Eggar, was just completing a visit to the United Nations where the subject of Britain's Falklands fishing zone was expected to be raised. Indeed, Mr Eggar did speak about the matter to the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Kent Barker asked Mr Eggar what he'd said.

TIM EGGAR MP:

I was able to explain to him the reasons for the announcement of a unilateral zone. I explained that we regarded it as an interim measure, that we had always wanted to have a multilateral agreement covering that area, that we tried very hard to achieve it; it hadn't been possible in advance of the 1987 fishing season which starts on February the 1st 1987 and we therefore, very reluctantly, had to move towards the declaration of a conservation zone.

KENT BARKER:

Had the Spanish made their announcement that they were not going to take any notice of this zone, while you were there?

TIM EGGAR MP:

Well, I think one has to be a little bit careful about the Spanish announcement. There is no official text of what the Spanish Prime Minister said, indeed there are very conflicting reports from the various different journalists who attended his press briefing. But the news hadn't broken of any announcement or any statement by the Spanish when I was in New York.

KENT BARKER:

But has the Foreign Office not actually taken any steps to find out what the Spanish position is?

TIM EGGAR MP:

Well, clearly we have made ~~inquiries~~, but we have to say that at the moment, we are simply relying on rather conflicting press reports of a press conference that was given by the Spanish Prime Minister. We fully expect that as previously, Spanish vessels will apply for licences, there's never been any trouble with Spanish vessels, hitherto and we don't expect that there will be any problems in the future.

KENT BARKER:

Is Britain actually in any position to police effectively this area, this 150 mile zone? Have we got the vessels and the aircraft to do it?

TIM EGGAR MP:

Oh yes. I mean, after all we police the fishing grounds around the United Kingdom and we will be deploying two civilian vessels and an aircraft which will be run by the Falkland Islands' Government. And we don't anticipate any difficulty with ensuring that only the vessels that have licences are the only vessels which actually fish within the Falklands conservation zone.

KENT BARKER:

What happens if a vessel from another country, I was thinking of Argentina, but it could equally well be Spain, does fish in that area - what will we actually do? I mean, is it a sort of instance where you fire a shot across their bows?

TIM EGGAR MP:

Oh well, initially, we would obviously expect any action to be taken by the civilian vessels and the civilian aircraft, neither of which will be armed. We would expect, exactly the same as happens in United Kingdom waters, that we would if there were contraventions of the zone that we would escort the vessel into port and take the appropriate action under the Falkland Islands' law.

KENT BARKER:

You're not worried that this could create considerably more difficulties with Argentina, difficulties which I think everybody hoped had been put in the past?

TIM EGGAR MP:

Well we have sought, ever since the Falklands conflict to normalise our relations with Argentina. Nothing would please us

more than if we could get multilateral agreement on what we were going to do on the fisheries in the South Atlantic, as soon as possible. We don't want to go unilateral, but we've been driven to it.

PRESENTER:
The Foreign Office Minister, Tim Eggar MP.

END

FIN TRANSMISION

OAS is unanimous over softer resolution on Falklands fishing zone

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

The Organization of American States (OAS) unanimously carried a compromise resolution on the Falklands yesterday, urging Britain and Argentina to resume negotiations over sovereignty and to refrain from further actions which could upset "the already delicate existing situation."

Meeting in an extraordinary session of the Permanent Council, as asked for by Argentina, the 31 member-states passed a resolution worked out in closed door sessions over the last several days.

At Argentina's request, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, attended the meeting and supported the resolution, thus adding international weight to the document.

OAS officials say a more strongly worded resolution drafted by Uruguay was watered down at the insistence of the US and several Caribbean countries.

The resolution expresses, "strong concern over this new element of tension" resulting from Britain's October 29 decision to extend its claim to territorial waters around the islands to 150 nautical miles.

It further asks "both parties to exhaust all possible opportunities for negotiation and not to take action that introduces changes in the already delicate existing situation."

In addition, the resolution supports the efforts of the international community in favour of the negotiation of the sovereignty dispute.

Finally the resolution praises Argentina for seeking to "resolve the dispute by diplomatic negotiations."

This resolution successfully avoided passage of a resolution strongly condemning Britain and backing Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falklands.

In an address to the OAS yesterday Mr Shultz did not comment on the Falklands crisis, but he did have harsh words for the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua.

He said that the civil war in Nicaragua would continue until "genuine democracy" was restored.

The Nicaraguan delegation, led by the Foreign Minister, Señor Miguel D'Escoto, boycotted the US Secretary of State's speech.

Mr Shultz told the OAS: "The Nicaraguan regime is fundamentally destabilizing to Central America. The regional arms race launched by the *Comandantes* is a matter of grave concern to us. "It is impossible to imagine peace and stability returning to the region until (Nicaragua's) massive growth in armamants is contained and ultimately eliminated."

The Secretary of State said that although the US was "prepared to support" the Latin American peace initiative sponsored by the Contadora group, "unfortunately" a four-year effort had "not produced a workable agreement."

Mr Shultz did not suppose that the OAS wanted to resume the Contadora peace initiative. Western diplomatic sources said the US was trying to block OAS discussion of the Nicaraguan conflict.

However, the eight Contadora group and Support Group countries have agreed upon a resolution aimed at ending the deadlock in the peace negotiations. The resolution is to be presented to the OAS today.

Speaking to reporters, the Nicarguan Foreign Minister, blamed the US for the stalemated Contadora peace initiative. He said Contadora had a colossal problem; the colossus of North America."It is a problem for Contadora, for Central America and for Latin America."

TIMES 12 NOV 86 pag 9

US 'fury' on Falklands

From John Carlin in Guatemala City

THE ARGENTINE delegation at the biennial general meeting of the Organisation of American States were jubilant yesterday as strong indications emerged that the United States had distanced itself further from the British government's Falklands policy than at any point since the Falklands War.

The US Secretary of State, George Shultz, heading his country's OAS delegation, told reporters his government had no intention of taking sides in the current dispute between Britain and Argentina over Falklands fishing limits, a position clearly different taken to that during the war when Washington actively supported Mrs Thatcher.

Privately, US officials said they were furious at Britain for imposing the new 200-mile fishing zone around the islands without consulting Washington, thereby landing the US government with the awkward problem of having to choose between allies.

This question of allegiances was the focus of two rounds of private talks between Mr Shultz and the Argentine Foreign Minister, Dante Caputo, late on Monday night. Asked yesterday how the conversations had gone, a senior aide to Mr Caputo enthused: "Excellent! Excellent! Excellent!"

"Relations between Argentina and the United States have not been better at any point this century," Mr Caputo's aide said. It became clear that Mr Shultz and Mr Caputo had hammered out the wording of an OAS resolution urging both Britain and Argentina to make every effort to seek a negotiated solution to the Falklands dispute. The resolution was due to be endorsed later yesterday by the OAS Permanent Council, which is made up of the foreign ministers of its 31 members.

US officials made clear that the reference to the "dispute" extended to the broader issue of sovereignty, the key stumbling block to negotiations between Britain and Argentina since the Falklands War. Argentina insists the issue must be included in an agenda before talks can begin. Britain refuses to countenance the idea.

It also emerged yesterday that the United States planned to respond positively to a call from the OAS secretary-general, João Clemente Baena Soares, for all members unanimously to condemn Britain's decision to impose the new fishing limit.

Mr Shultz told US reporters that the fishing problem ought to be addressed as part of an attempt to solve the broader problem of the Falklands. However, Mr Shultz said he had no intention of actively mediating.

The Peruvian ambassador to the OAS, Luís González Posada, delivered a fierce anti-British speech but was equally merciless against the US on the question of Central America. Lashing the United States for arming and training the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, he spoke for what appeared to be a majority of Latin American governments.

The US still appeared to be a long way from bridging the gap between itself and the rest of hemisphere on Central America.

INDEPENDENT 12 NOV 86 pag 12

Reminder to the President

MRS THATCHER, who is leaving on an official trip to the U.S. today, should be ready to tell President Reagan a few home truths.

Why, she must ask, did the United States join with the other members of the Organisation of American States this week to condemn Britain's decision, thoroughly justified as it was on grounds of conservation, to impose a fishing exclusion zone around the Falklands?

How could the State Department possibly go along with the resolution that this action would bring 'a new element of tension and potential conflict' into the situation?

Then there is the awkward question of nuclear arms.

It seems that the Americans are now seriously entertaining the idea that the two superpowers should abolish completely their nuclear ballistic missiles.

This would spell the end of Britain's present plans for replacing her ageing Polaris nuclear deterrent. For the American-made Trident would cease to be available.

All of which would leave the Tory defence policy looking vulnerable at the very moment when the party may be entering a general election in which defence is the main issue.

Lastly, we can hardly ignore America's clandestine dealings with the government of Iran in which it is now admitted arms are being supplied on the understanding that hostages will be released.

That has certainly undermined the moral stand against terrorism which our Prime Minister took when she backed, at some cost in electoral popularity at home, the U.S. bombing attack on Libya.

Under Mrs Thatcher, Britain has been America's most loyal and dependable ally. If that situation is to continue, Washington had better ensure that in future Britain's national interests are not ignored.

DAILY MAIL 14 NOV 86 pag 6

Hella Pick on the bundle of gripes Mrs Thatcher takes to Washington

Old pals' rift

MRS THATCHER, off to Washington today and Camp David tomorrow, is already assured of President Reagan's warmest approval of her son's decision to strengthen the Thatcher family's special relationship with the US by planning to marry a Texas rose.

But it will need more than Mark Thatcher's real-life Dynasty tale to sustain the close mutual respect

That is because Mrs Thatcher comes with a bundle of concerns and complaints, and is surely in a mood for lecturing; even hectoring, her favourite western leader.

She is plainly not very happy with the way Mr Reagan came to the brink of ignoring her perception of European security interests during his adventures with Mr Gorbachev in Reykjavik. She cannot approve of the secret US approaches to Iran, which undercut Britain's efforts to rally western nations behind a policy of refusing to bargain for the freedom of hostages.

And even though the Government says it understands US reluctance to pick quarrels with Latin America over the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher is less than enthusiastic over Mr George Shultz's decision to vote for the Organisation of American States censure of Britain's declaration of a 150-mile fishing zone around the Falkland Islands.

It's quite an agenda for less than a full day's togetherness between Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan.

The Reagan administration constantly stresses its readiness to consult closely with the Nato allies, and to take account of their interests in its negotiations with others, especially with the Soviet Union. Yet Britain, in common with West Germany and France, certainly believes that President Reagan does not always live up to his good intentions.

The first forewarning came in 1983 with his totally unexpected announcement to change existing concepts of strategic stability by committing the US to the Star Wars concept of strategic defence through space weapons that had not even reached the drawing boards.

Although Western Europe initially permitted itself to query the President's dream, the Strategic Defence Initiative has come to be accepted as part of the political landscape of alliance solidarity.

Mrs Thatcher has made little secret of welcoming President Reagan's refusal to compromise SDI at Reykjavik, averting what she might otherwise have considered a disaster for Western Europe's security.

Had it not been for Mr Gorbachev's insistence on linking sharp restraints on SDI to drastic cuts in medium-range and strategic nuclear weapons, President Reagan might have sent Nato into deep shock by committing himself to the fatal erosion of nuclear deterrence.

Mrs Thatcher must be aware that President Reagan is genuinely opposed to the idea that peace in the nuclear age is best maintained by means of the strategy of MAD—Mutual Assured Destruction—by nuclear weapons. But she is set to tell him that there is no realistic alternative

GUARDIAN (P.17)

14 NOVIEMBRE 1986

CONT. Pag. sig.

view Page cont.

In Reykjavik, President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev contemplated an agreement under which all US cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe would be eliminated in exchange for the elimination of Soviet SS-20s. Mrs Thatcher can live with this; even consider it an electoral advantage, although she will tell President Reagan that such an agreement must be firmly anchored to a Soviet commitment to negotiate about short-range nuclear weapons in Europe that would conclusively end the Soviet monopoly in advanced short-range systems.

She will also tell Mr Reagan that Britain is all for reducing strategic nuclear weapons. A US-Soviet agreement to undertake 50 per cent cuts is quite acceptable to her provided that no attempt is made to include Trident, and that there is no automatic commitment to move on to the elimination of ballistic missiles, let alone all nuclear weapons.

The Government probably feels that these points must be put before the President, even though Mrs Thatcher must be well aware that there is very little "risk" of advancing along the sensational road briefly glimpsed in Reykjavik.

Since then the encounter in Vienna between Mr George Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze marks a sad return to the dialogue of the deaf. The US-Soviet arms negotiations in Geneva have now been adjourned for a long Christmas break

Mrs Thatcher is far from losing MAD or Trident, and can afford to be generous to President Reagan.

GUARDIAN (P.17) - 14 NOV. 1986

SE SU DC DC DC

Exocet frigates for Argentinian navy

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

Argentina's efforts to boost its military capacity in the South Atlantic take another step forward today when President Raul Alfonsin launches a modern missile frigate and formally hands over another to the navy.

Both ships are armed with M-38 Exocet sea-to-sea missiles made in France and assembled in Argentina and the vessels are reported to have a top speed of 27 knots. The 1,700-ton ships, built at Argentina's naval shipyards to a design by Bloehm and Voss of West Germany, are the last two of a series of six missile frigates destined for the navy.

Defence observers here commented the frigate fleet would be a "useful complement" to Argentina's only aircraft carrier, the 25 de Mayo.

The aircraft carrier spent all but the initial stages of the Falklands war tied up in dock at the navy's base at Puerto Belgrano, 700 miles south of Buenos Aires. But it was hurriedly reconditioned after the war and an extension of its landing deck means that since 1983 it has been suitable for use with Etendard, the French-made aircraft that inflicted so much damage with Exocet attacks on Britain's Falklands task force.

The frigates, the Gomez Roca, named after an Argentine captain killed during the war, and the Rosales, also carry anti-aircraft cannon, torpedos and machineguns.

However, the future of the navy's surface fleet remains in doubt. With the admirals' interest focused on a submarine programme, it is thought that some of the frigates could be sold to raise finance.

The frigates were ordered under a navy expansion plan approved by the Peronist Government in 1974, although the plan was heavily revised and speeded up as the military regime moved out of power after the Falklands defeat.

President Alfonsin's Government insists that there have been no new warships or weapons purchases since it took office in late 1983.

GUARDIAN (P.7) 14 NOV. 1986.

SE SU DC DC DC

KNOWSLEY NORTH

George Howarth (L)	17,403
Rosemary Cooper (Lib)	10,679
Roger Brown (C)	1,960
David Hallsworth (RCP)	664
Roger Weiss (Rainbow All)	111
David Cory (Ind)	88
Labour majority	**6,724**
Total vote 30,905	Turnout 57%

1983: R Kilroy-Silk (L) 24,949; A Birch (C) 7,758; B. McColgan (SDP/All) 5,715. J. Simons (WRP) 246. Total vote: 38,688 (69.5%). L majority: 17,191 (44.5%).

TIMES 14 NOV 86 pag 1

Labour's team is named

By Our Political Staff

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, announced yesterday his list of frontbench spokesmen for the new session.

Lord Bruce of Donington will become chief Treasury spokesman in place of Lord Barnett, Labour's former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who is now deputy chairman of the BBC.

Chief spokesman on trade and industry will be Lord Williams of Elvel, who was praised for his work on the Financial Services Bill.

The main Labour spokesmen are:

Leader: Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos;

Deputy Leader: Lord Underhill;

Chief Whip: Lord Ponsonby;

Peers' representative on Parliamentary Committee: Lord Oram;

Deputy Chief Whip: Lady David;

Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries: Lord John-Mackie;

Arts, Libraries, Heritage, Broadcasting: Lady Birk;

Civil Service, Foreign affairs and Welsh affairs: Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos;

Defence: Lord Irving of Dartford;

Education and Science: Lord MacIntosh of Haringey;

Electoral affairs and transport: Lord Underhill;

Employment: Lord McCarthy;

Energy: Lord Stoddart of Swindon;

Environment: Lady David;

Health: Lord Ennals;

Home Office: Lord Mishcon;

Legal affairs: Lord Elwyn-Jones;

Northern Ireland: Lord Prys-Davies;

Scottish Office: Lord Ross of Marnock;

Social security: Lady Jeger;

Trade and industry: Lord Williams of Elvel;

Treasury: Lord Bruce of Donington.

TIMES 14 NOV 86 pag 4

FIN TRANSMISION

US closer to us over Falklands, says Argentina

From John Carlin in Guatemala City

THE UNITED STATES has been brought closer to Argentina and Britain is becoming progressively isolated on the issue of the Falklands as a result of its decision to impose a fishing exclusion zone around the islands, the Argentine Foreign Minister, Dante Caputo, claimed yesterday.

Earlier, it had been announced in Washington and Buenos Aires that the Argentine President, Raúl Alfonsin, will meet President Reagan when he visits the United States next week.

Mr Caputo was speaking in an interview with *The Independent* here in the Guatemalan capital the morning after the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) had unanimously approved a resolution reprimanding Britain for "the new element of tension and potential conflict" introduced by the British measure last month.

Backed by all 31 countries in the OAS, including the United States and Britain's Caribbean allies, the resolution called on Britain "to support the efforts of the international community in favour of peaceful negotiation of all aspects of the Falkland Islands dispute, including the question of sovereignty".

"I feel British diplomacy has made a significant error," Mr Caputo told *The Independent*. "This tactical move on the fishing business has proved a strategic mistake because it has brought to the table of discussion the fundamental issue we wish to discuss, the issue of sovereignty.

"This is marvellous because I've always tried to bring the sovereignty issue to the attention of the international community ... This time they [the British Government] have done us an exceptional favour as it is they who brought up the question of sovereignty by imposing this 200-mile limit."

Asserting that in the Argentine Government's view the United States vote in favour of the OAS resolution represents the most significant shift on the Falklands issue by Washington towards Argentina since 1982, Mr Caputo took particular satisfaction in the fact that Britain's closest ally during the Falklands War should have sided with Argentina in what he called "a delicate, emergency issue".

The Argentine Foreign Minister, however, was at pains to emphasise the moderate tone of the OAS resolution, whose wording he and US Secretary of State George Shultz had largely hammered out together in a private conversation on Monday night.

"That is what we wanted: a statement of principles all could agree on."

Mr Caputo reiterated the long-held position of the Alfonsin Government. He insisted on the importance which the Argentine Government attaches to initiating negotiations with Britain. "Furthermore, before doing that, we are ready to begin conversations to try and understand each other, to see what our positions are, to destroy prejudices."

In an allusion to the Argentine insistence, rejected by Britain, that sovereignty must be on any talks agenda, Mr Caputo then went on to clarify: "We want to meet for conversations without that excluding anything. We want to see if ... we can begin a negotiating process that is sure to take time and will face all sorts of difficulties, but will above all be a peaceful process."

Mr Caputo acknowledged that a possible obstacle on the Argentine side may once have been internal pressure to resolve the Falklands problem "in two days".

On the current fishing dispute, Mr Caputo rejected the British argument that the issuing of a licence to Soviet ships to fish in Falklands waters had been itself an Argentine provocation to Mrs Thatcher.

Before the licence was issued, there were 100 Soviet ships fishing in those waters, he said. "Now there are perhaps 15 or 16."

Mr Caputo would not be drawn when asked to suggest what kind of formula Argentina might accept in future negotiations over sovereignty with this or any future British Government, refusing to say, for example, whether a leasing arrangement in the manner of Hong Kong could be worked out. "I cannot state either my maximum or my minimum position as that would weaken my position in any possible negotiation."

INDEPENDENT 13NOV86 Pag 8

Shultz on the dotted line

One neat, but unwelcome irony yesterday. In London — an almost ritual appendage to the Speech these days — the Queen was busy "honouring" HMG's "commitments" to the people of the Falklands. In Guatemala City, meanwhile, all 31 foreign ministers from the Organisation of American States were unanimously passing a motion criticising Britain's new fishing zone around the islands for adding "another element to the existing situation of tension and potential conflict ... over the Malvinas." UN resolutions on sovereignty were duly endorsed. Efforts at "diplomatic negotiations" by the Argentine government were fulsomely applauded. And one name amongst 31 perhaps stood out in clear relief: George Shultz, Secretary of State, the USA.

Mrs Thatcher will obviously have more to talk to Ronald Reagan about at the weekend than the necessity of keeping lots of nuclear weapons in Europe. America's profound distaste for Britain's Falklands intransigence has been known for years. But yesterday's OAS resolution goes further than ever before. It endorses — pretty explicitly — Buenos Aires' claims to sovereignty over the islands. It slaps President Alfonsin on the back. And it kicks Sir Geoffrey on the knee for his fishing gambit. Anyone who thought that the British position over sovereignty and the rights of the islanders might begin eventually to make a little headway should think again. We are, in all meaningful respects, alone on the issue. Our much touted superpower ally is now flatly in the opposition camp.

None of this, perhaps, matters too immediately in a world where — save for miserable accident — Britain and Argentina aren't going to war again. As long as the taxpayer is willing to pick up the tab, the Falklands can be maintained in a tolerably stable state: neither prospering nor declining. If (and when) Mrs Thatcher loses office, or retires to Dulwich, then matters may unwind somewhat. All the Opposition parties are pledged to negotiate a solution (a form of words that means negotiate about sovereignty). It is also, in truth, difficult to see any likely Tory successor in Downing Street shelling out hundreds of millions a year into this most unremunerative of enterprises. But our present Prime Minister will have nothing to do with such grey (Foreign Office) prognostications. The lady was utterly prepared to talk about sovereignty before General Galtieri's invasion — step forward Mr Witness Ridley — but the Argentine landings, in some slightly unformulated way, appear to have wiped any of the old formulas for progress from the face of the earth — notwithstanding the self-evident facts that Galtieri is in gaol and President Alfonsin is one of the purest and most amenable democrats in South America.

Why should this be? Originally, it was said that the wounds of battle were too fresh to consider further negotiation. But time passes, scabs form, and nothing happens. Originally it was said (by Mrs Thatcher and her then Foreign Secretary) that the islanders would be formally and fully consulted about their future. A referendum. That hasn't happened either. Westminster has had no propositions to consider. HMG's UN team has had no new arguments to put. There is only the most doleful vacuum: a refusal to shift or think, or do anything more — see the fishing affair — than react. When the other side makes a minimal move. All of which would be tolerably defensible if the islanders themselves were being looked after and given the calm future that they crave. But that isn't happening either. For years the Falklanders have wanted their fisheries developed. Whitehall turned a deaf ear, and an empty purse. There's no official belief here that the islands (balefully shunned by the continent in whose shadow they live) can ever be more than an economic basket case. Equally Whitehall (because its knows the mortality of transient politicians) recognises that one day the 1,400 or so indigenous Falklanders will be told the truth and asked to choose. In the meantime, therefore there is only a conspiracy of silence and indecision. A British government that really wanted to secure the livelihoods of the Falklanders would see Alfonsin as the best bet for settlement in modern history, and be hammering out a 25-year, 50-year, nay, 100-year transition deal with him. But we seem merely to be waiting for something to turn up: and when it does, in Buenos Aires, we shall surely lament an opportunity cravenly lost.

"EDITORIAL" GUARDIAN 13 NOV 86 pag 16

STA/LONDRES

Disputes in Latin America

Alfonsín to seek US backing on fish zone

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Alfonsin of Argentina is to hold talks with President Reagan at the White House next week, during which he will seek a public declaration of support for Argentina in its dispute with Britain over fishery rights around the Falkland Islands.

But a senior Administration official told *The Times* that the US is determined not to offend either country and would keep out of the dispute as far as possible.

"You are certainly not going to see anybody shuttling between Buenos Aires and London," he said. "We do not want to get in the middle of this one."

Privately, however, some officials said the Administration was upset that Britain's action had forced it into such a difficult diplomatic corner.

An Argentine Government official said yesterday that President Alfonsin, who will probably meet Mr Reagan on Monday, would seek to persuade the United States "to return to the fold" by publicly supporting Argentina.

There is clear delight among Argentine diplomats that the US has steadily moved away from its strong support of Britain after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands in 1982. The US policy of neutrality is widely interpreted in Latin America as a move towards the Argentine position and as an attempt to mend fences with the southern hemisphere.

President Alfonsin, who will be in the US for four days, has held private talks with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, at the meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Guatemala City this week. Argentine officials said they were delighted at their outcome, details of which are not known.

Argentine diplomats are delighted that Mr Shultz voted with the other 30 OAS foreign ministers on Tuesday for a resolution criticizing Britain for its declaration of a fisheries conservation area around the Falklands. It fell short of an outright condemnation of Britain but said that the action had injected new tension into the volatile Falklands situation.

Peace plan still deadlocked

From Martha Honey, Guatemala City

Objections from the US and three pro-US Central American countries stopped a Contadora Group draft resolution on the Central American crisis from being presented as scheduled yesterday to the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting.

Heated behind-the-scenes debate over parts of the three-page resolution being drafted by eight Latin-American countries, has led to the modification of at least one alternate version.

Nicaragua is accusing the US of blocking the resolution and trying to sabotage the Contadora Group peace process aimed at ending the Nicaraguan conflict and reducing the foreign military presence in Central America.

The Central American crisis is emerging as the most controversial and divisive issue at the meeting of the 31 OAS states, the Caribbean and the US.

The Contadora peace plan has been awaiting ratification by the five Central American countries — Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. But Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador have objected to parts of it and are now refusing to sit down at the conference table with Nicaragua, which is supporting the resolution.

The Falklands Islands crisis had been expected to top yesterday's agenda, but a compromise resolution on it was unanimously adopted late on Tuesday.

TIMES 13 NOV 86 pag 10-

Falklands demand

All fishing vessels licensed by Britain to operate in the new Falkland Islands fishing zone will have to report details of their catches daily, Mr Peter Denham, chief inspector of fisheries at the UK Ministry of Agriculture, said yesterday, AP reports from Stanley, Falkland Islands.

FINANCIAL TIMES 14NOV 86

pag 6

Decision soon on Falklands licences

THE Falkland Islands Office in London is expected to announce within the next week new licensing measures for the 150-mile EEZ to be imposed around the islands from February 1 next year.

Alastair Cameron of the London office said the necessary legislation has not yet been passed but it is under discussion. He returned from a trip to the islands on Monday this week.

Reactions to the UK's announcement of an exclusive fisheries protection zone continue to fuel speculation that further clashes in the South Atlantic cannot be discounted.

The decision by Spain not to observe Britain's fishing restrictions follows it's support of Argentina in the 1982 war and its refusal to accept UK sovereignty over the islands.

Spain is the EEC country which fishes most in Falkland waters and it is feared that a similar response from other nations involved in the fishery, such as the USSR, may follow.

Argentina's announcement that it will modify its law to permit fishing in an Argentine EEZ to foreign vessels 'without exception' is regarded as provocative by the Falkland Islands Office which says it will 'enforce its zone' if there is any infringement.

FISHING NEWS NOV '86

Spanish concern on Falklands

Lima (Reuter) – Spain and Peru yesterday expressed deep concern over the Anglo-Argentine fisheries dispute in the Falkland Islands and called for immediate negotiations to resolve the conflict.

The statement, signed by President Garciá and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, also urged the parties to begin negotiations immediately to reach an understanding.

TIMES 14NOV86 pag14

Talks urged on Falklands

Lima (Reuter) — Spain and Peru expressed deep concern over the Anglo-Argentine fisheries dispute in the Falkland Islands, and called for immediate negotiations to resolve the conflict.

The joint communiqué, signed by President García of Peru and the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe González, who is on a visit, issued "an urgent call to the parties to immediately begin negotiations to reach an understanding". Spain and Peru both support Argentina's claim of sovereignty over the islands.

INDEPENDENT 14NOV86 pag 8

Falklands fishing

From Mr Alistair Horne

Sir, Sir John Nott's article points up two key ingredients that brought success in the Falklands, as opposed to disaster at Suez. One was the courage and single-mindedness of the Prime Minister; the second was that, in 1982, Britain had the support of the United States — coupled with the name of Caspar Weinberger, who (and not just over the Falklands) proved himself to be a true friend of this country.

The Falklands campaign was as Sir John also revealed, an extremely close-run thing. Now, in what to the simple citizen seems like an act of extraordinary and unnecessarily provocative folly, we are threatening to impose a fisheries protection zone around the islands.

If this is carried through, we face alienating those countries in Latin America that ought to be our friends (and possibly, now, Spain as well). We can no longer be assured of unqualified US support over the Falklands, and in two years our very good friend, Caspar Weinberger, will almost certainly have gone.

Before it is too late, and irreparable damage is done, the Government should seriously reconsider.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR HORNE,
21 St Petersburgh Place, W2.
November 8.

TIMES 14NOV86 pag 21

OAS told of growing instability

From Martha Honey
Guatemala City

Señor Bernado Sepúlveda Amor, the Mexican Foreign Minister, has warned that Latin America and the Caribbean are facing a grave economic and political crisis.

Señor Sepúlveda, in his speech on Wednesday to the general assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), outlined the deteriorating economy of the region and warned that the political crisis in Central America could spill over and destabilize the entire continent.

He also said the dispute between Britain and Argentina over fishing rights around the Falkland Islands had "aggravated tensions in the South Atlantic".

The Mexican minister accused Britain of adopting "unilateral methods that modify the *status quo* (thereby) making negotiations difficult".

He reiterated his country's support for Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and its surrounding waters.

Señor Sepúlveda began his speech by listing indicators of the economic crisis facing Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that, during the 1980s, 130 million people – or 35 per cent of the continent's population – would be living in poverty and would not be able to "satisfy their nutritional needs".

The region's standard of living in 1986, he said, was almost the same as it was in 1973.

Further, he said Latin American exports had declined by 6.5 per cent last year and the price of principal export products for the region continued to fall. He said the current terms of trade for Latin America was 52.8 per cent lower than it was in 1970.

In particular, he mentioned that the ". . . petroleum crisis has had a disastrous effect on the economies of oil-exporting countries in the region". Mexico's export earnings, for example, had declined by one-third this year.

Señor Sepúlveda said developing countries could not overcome this economic crisis until industrialized nations and international financial institutions "dismantle the protective barriers . . . eliminate discriminating practices and quota systems" and renegotiate payments of external debts.

TIMES 14 NOV 86 pag 11

Alfonsin in control of Falklands policy

From Jeremy Morgan
in Buenos Aires

President Alfonsin has assumed direct control of Argentina's Falklands policy reflecting concern at the deadlock with Britain almost three years after he took power, Western diplomatic observers believe.

Suspicions that the President decided to take over the issue focus on the tone of Argentina's offer last Monday to meet Britain's demand for a formal end to hostilities in the South Atlantic.

The language of the proposal was the "mildest and most conciliatory yet seen in an Argentine statement on the Falklands", a senior diplomat said.



Dante Caputo: under criticism

The proposal was phrased with "none of the anger normally used in statements issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry on the dispute until now," the source said. Some of his colleagues thought it was perhaps largely drafted at the President's office.

"There seemed much less worry than usual about how nationalists might react," one observer commented.

For the moment, the diplomats are reserving judgment on the implications for Argentina's Foreign Minister, Mr Dante Caputo, whose Falklands strategy is under increasing criticism at home.

But they point out that President Alfonsin actively adopted the role of Argentina's Falklands spokesman during a recent lecture tour in the United States, while Mr Caputo worked behind the scenes for support at next week's United Nations debate.

Speculation about presidential intervention coincides with confusion and contradiction over the details and the aims of the Argentine initiative, particularly the question of when Argentina might declare a formal end to hostilities.

GUARDIAN (P.8)

21 NOVIEMBRE 1986

[illegible]

Falklands vote

New York (Reuter) — The non-aligned group of countries yesterday issued a statement expressing support for Argentina's case against Britain in the Falklands dispute and deploring Britain's declaration of a fisheries protection zone around the disputed islands.

INDEPENDENT (P.6)

21 NOVIEMBRE 1986

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ALFONSIN: CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

Does it not seem extraordinary that President Alfonsin of Argentina was presented with the Council of Europe's human rights prize at a ceremony at Strasbourg on 17th October? Especially so since it is the first time that the award has been made to an individual!

The Times of 13th October reported President Alfonsin's statement in Madrid that his country is "determined to recover sovereignty over the Malvinas (Falklands)". This is precisely what we have been trying to g[illegible] across to Neil Kinnock and David Steel. We believe President Alfonsin. At least he is being honest.

Why has no one told the Council of Europe that Senor Alfonsin refuses even to consider that 2,000 people living on some islands 300 miles off the coast of Argentina also have human rights, and that he is determined to enslave them against their will.

Senor Alfonsin has now left for an official visit to Moscow, no doubt to sign formally Argentina's fishing agreement with Russia, and he is then due to make an official visit to Cuba.

EDICION Nº 29 - PÁGINA 14.

A2

AN EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE AT LAST

The declaration of the 150 mile Exclusive Fishing Zone around the Falkland Islands by Sir Geoffrey Howe on 29th October has brought much pleasure to the members of the Falkland Islands Association after all our efforts to promote this over a number of years. We have seen many influential people. We have written many thousands of words and the *Falkland Islands Newsletter* has been proud to be at the spearhead.

The Falkland Islanders are pleased as it means prospects of greater wealth with less financial dependence on Britain and the conservation of their country. Conservationists are pleased as it now spells the end of the uncontrolled ravages of the fish stocks in the area, thus preserving the wild life dependent on the sea for food. Fishermen worldwide have been served too, now that the 'free for all' has been halted permitting controlled fishing for everyone at an acceptable level for the future.

The only casualty appears to be the hurt false pride of Argentina, whose refusal to co-operate and whose provocative bilateral treaties with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria were the straw that finally persuaded the British Government to act.

Whatever Mr. George Foulkes and the South Atlantic Council, that bunch of academics and businessmen with Argentine interests, may think or want, we do not believe that either Soviet Russia or Argentina will cause any problems in the Zone.

It is Argentina's historic fate that she has always brought tragedy upon herself and perhaps Britain's firm action this time may have caused Argentina to face up to reality over the Falklands. Therefore Argentina too may have been done a good service.

FALKLAND ISLANDS NEWSLETTER
Nº 29 - NOVIEMBRE 1986 -

— FIN TRANSICIÓN —

Refit for Russian giant

A SOVIET fish carrier is having an extensive refit at the Irish yard Arklow Engineering – and progress on the 1971-built boat is satisfactory, says Arklow managing direct Liam McElligott.

"We haven't been adversely surprised by anything we've found on her so far," he told *Fishing News* this week.

She's in excellent condition for a ship of her age."

The fish carrier *Boptnicheskiy Zaliv* was built in France. Mr. McElligott says that the two Pielstick V12 engines and gearbox have been removed for a full survey and the tailshaft has been drawn. Additional work includes shotblasting and extensive steelwork.

The fish carrier, whose home port is Tallin in the Baltic, arrived at Arklow Engineering on October 29 and should be leaving in early December. She is of 541ft. and just under 13,000grt and Mr. McElligott believes she is the biggest refit ever to be carried out in Dublin.

Arklow Engineering beat off competition from a number of foreign yards to clinch the order.

The crew is remaining with the ship while the work is under way. "It's a feature of our yard that any crew can work side-by-side with our own men," said Mr. McElligott.

Grants delay wooden boat



Builder Bobbie Cann has 12 men and no work.

TRADE is very poor in some south-west of England wooden boatbuilding yards and their bosses lay the blame firmly at the door of the Sea Fish Industry Authority and EEC Feoga grant systems.

Bob Cann, of the Brixham Cann and Pender boatyard, has four ordersfor vessels over 50ft. pending, but skippers will not sign contracts until Feoga awards are made or new SFIA awards come through next year. In the meantime, the 12-strong workforce at Cann and Pender do work.

Bob Cann said: "We Since the completion c *Newquay* we have h resulting in four near-f

Re-organisec

"We have invested the yard to take boats But no skippers will he can get the as quic SFIA.

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"The Feoga g re-organ pers wi to a co cent granted.

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UK interest in Falklands

BRITISH companies seem eager to exploit the Falklands fisheries following the UK government's announcement of a 150-mile EEZ. "There appears to be a lot of interest," said Alastair Cameron of the London based Falklands Office which is receiving applications for licences until December 5.

There have also been applications in from other countries and successful applicants will be informed as soon after December 12 as is possible. Fees for licences have not yet been disclosed by the Falklands Office but total revenue from these is expected to between $US 7-10.

The level of the licence fee will vary according to area, period of fishing and type of fishing vessels employed.

Licences will be issued for the periods February to June and July to December 1987. The area around the islands will be divided on a north-south basis for the first six months of the year, licences will be granted on an east-west basis as *loligo* squid (also a very value species) is predominantly in the east.

Fines

There will be no catch quotas or restrictions on fishing gear. "It would be too complicated to impose a quota system to begin with," said Mr. Cameron but he added that if the simple system of licensing vessels is not effective, other methods of conservation will be looked at.

Fines for fishing without a licence will be £100,000 and the skipper, owner and charterer of the vessel concerned will each be liable to pay the fine. Other fines for infrigements range from £15,000 to £100,000.

DTp looks into survival suits

THE CARRIAGE of live-saving appliances on fishing vessels is currently under examination by the Department of Transport, says Michael Spicer, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the DTp.

He was replying to a parliamentary question from Greenock MP Norman Godman. Dr. Godman had asked what representations had been received on the subject of survival, or immersion suits.

Mr. Spicer gave the following figures for fishing vessels lost: 50 in 1982, 43 in 1983, 41 in 1984, 40 in 1985 and seven in the first six months of 1986. Deaths were none in 1982, 14 in 1983, 10 in 1984, 15 in 1985 and three this year so far.

'Atlantis' nearly ready

KILKEEL, Northern Ireland, skipper Charlie MacBride's 109ft. *Atlantis*, which has been undergoing a refit at Robertsons Services in Fleetwood, is reported to be nearly ready for fishing.

The vessel has had an overhaul of her main engine and winches, plus a new stern section fitted.

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November 1986

FISHING AROUND THE FALKLANDS

On 29 October 1986, the British Foreign Secretary announced in the House of Commons the Government's decision to establish a Falkland Islands interim conservation and management zone (FICZ) of 150 miles radius from the Falkland Islands, to come into effect from 1 February 1987. This zone is to be established because of an urgent need to deal with fish conservation - continuation of fishing at 1986 levels would pose a serious threat to the main squid stock. The British Government has emphasised that the setting up of the FICZ is only an interim measure to remain in force until a collaborative solution can be achieved. There is no intention on Britain's part of increasing tension in the area. Indeed, the FICZ will bring order into the fishery to the benefit of all the nations concerned. Moreover, British support for a South Atlantic Zone of Peace (SAZOP) is evidence of her commitment to the reduction of tension in the South West Atlantic.

In the three years to 1986, fishing around the Falkland Islands tripled from around 200 vessels to over 600. The area is one of the last unregulated fisheries in the world, where foreign fishing vessels are operating at levels which the fishery will not bear.

Concern about conservation was expressed at a fisheries conference (COFI), organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Committee of Fisheries in April 1985, and has been echoed in Argentina and Uruguay as well as Britain. Scientific studies, British and Argentine, have stressed the need for conservation. An FAO study of the fishery, which was launched in November 1985 as a result of a British initiative and which has drawn heavily on inputs from Britain, Argentina and other fishing nations, is due to be published in draft in December. It is likely to recognise the conservation requirements of the fishery. The study, originally expected to be completed in June 1986 has been repeatedly delayed, largely because of lack of cooperation in the provision of data by the USSR, Spain and Japan.

Faced in December 1985 with the threat of a dramatically increased fishing effort by Far Eastern fleets targetted on squid, Britain negotiated Voluntary Restraint Arrangements (VRAs) precisely to avoid prejudicing the outcome of the FAO study. When it became clear that there was no chance of agreeing multilateral arrangements for the 1987 season, the decision was taken to try to renew and extend the VRAs to all the fishing nations. But in view of the slow response from some fishing nations and the need for fishing fleets to be

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informed on arrangements for the fishing before they set sail in December, in disputed waters, it became necessary to reach a firm decision to ensure orderly fishing in the 1987 season beginning in February. Hence the establishment of the FICZ.

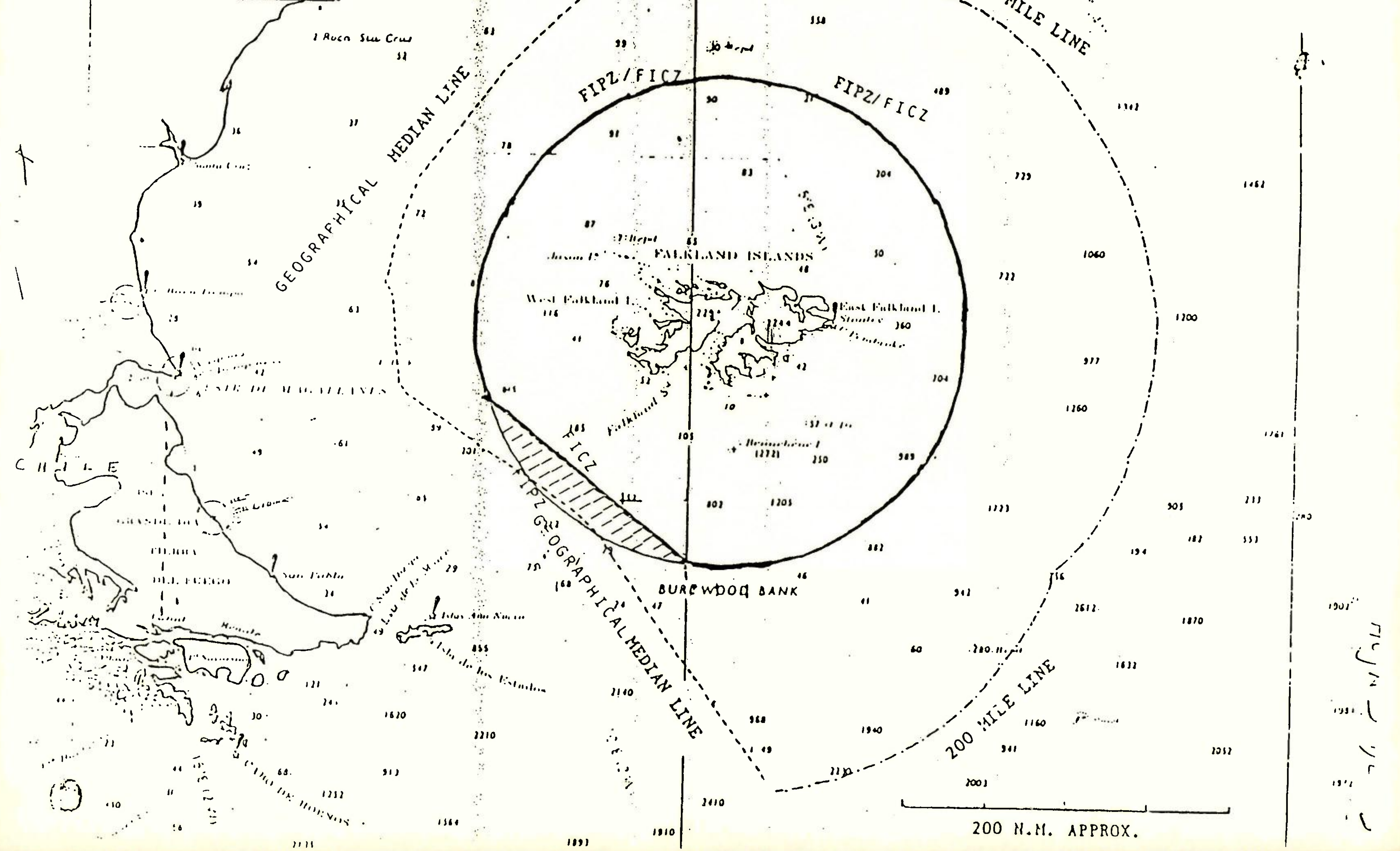
The British Government has always felt that multilateral arrangements would deal most effectively with the problem of conservation, and it has on many occasions made it clear (in public and direct to Argentina) its readiness to work for multilateral arrangements under the auspices of the FAO, which would be without prejudice to differing positions on sovereignty. However, Argentine actions have undermined the multilateral approach.

At COFI in April 1985, support quickly emerged in favour of the FAO study of the fishery, provided Britain and Argentina agreed, but it was not until November 1985 that Argentina finally signified her agreement. Her support for the FAO study appeared to be aimed primarily at diverting attention from her own policy which renders multilateral arrangements virtually meaningless. Thus her fisheries protection measures have already involved arresting boats (causing death), fishing within 200 miles of the Falklands but over 200 miles from the Argentine coast. And she has recently signed fisheries agreements with the USSR and Bulgaria which apply to the Argentine EEZ; this, according to Argentine law, covers waters within 200 miles of the Falklands. Argentina seems to give higher priority to exploiting the fisheries issue as a means of pursuing her sovereignty claim than to solving the conservation problem.

Britain eventually concluded that action, in line with international law and the UN Law of the Sea Convention, was essential. The conservation and management arrangements that the Falkland Islands Government propose to establish will be guided by conservation aims, and, in encouraging the development of fishery services in the Falklands, will bring benefits to foreign fishing fleets granted licences, as well as the economy of the Falkland Islands. The FICZ will be the responsibility of the Falkland Islands Government; two civilian fisheries protection vessels and one civilian aircraft will be used.

. FIPZ is co-extensive with the FICZ except for the small quadrant in the South-west.

FIPZ = FICZ + [hatched area]



Falklands protest

New Haven, Connecticut (AP) – The British Government's rejection of Argentina's offer to end hostilities over the Falkland Islands was "a new provocation", President Alfonsin of Argentina said yesterday.

Argentina would continue its search for peace with Britain, he said at Yale University.

Argentina offered on Monday to begin "an open dialogue" with Britain as a step towards talks on Falklands sovereignty. It said it would declare a formal end to hostilities if Britain drops its 150-mile "military protection zone" around the South Atlantic islands.

TIMES 20 NOV 86 pag 11

– FIN TRANSMISION –

FCO PRESS CONFERENCE : WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1986

RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALA

In reply to a question, Spokesman confirmed that Lady Young had had a meeting in Miami yesterday with President Cerezo of Guatemala. They had discussed the restoration of full diplomatic relations and had been hopeful that this could be achieved before the end of the year. Meanwhile discussions between HMG and the Government of Guatemala continued. In reply to further questions spokesman commented that there was no linkage between Guatemala's relations with Belize and the restoration of diplomatic relations between Britain and Guatemala.

ARGENTINE DECLARATION

Asked whether HMG had replied to the Argentine proposals for talks, Spokesman pointed to public statements made by Ministers yesterday. He had no knowledge of any formal reply through the Swiss protecting power.

VANUNU

Asked whether HMG intended to seek further assurances from the Israeli Government about Mr Vanunu, Spokesman replied that he had nothing to add to Spokesman's statement of 14 November. Spokesman refused to be drawn into commenting on remarks attributed to Home Office Minister Mr David Waddington.

RELATIONS WITH IRAN

In reply to a question, Spokesman said HMG had full diplomatic relations with Iran. For security reasons, relations had, since 1980, been maintained in Tehran through a British Interests Section under Swedish protection. Questioned further, Spokesman said he was not aware of any plans to change this system of representation. Iran maintained a full embassy in London, headed by a Chargé d'Affaires.

ANEXO 6

Tuesday
18 November 1986

Volume 105
No. 5

HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Tuesday 18 November 1986

LONDON
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Prime Minister (Visit to Washington)

3.48 pm

The Prime Minister (Mrs. Margaret Thatcher): With permisssion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement on my visit to the United States on 14 and 15 November for talks with President Reagan at Camp David. I also had separate meetings with Vice-President Bush, Secretary of State Shultz and the Defence Secretary, Mr. Weinberger.

The main purpose of my visit was to discuss with the President issues of defence and of arms control, in the light of his meeting in Reykjavik with Mr. Gorbachev. We agreed upon a statement of our views, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

President Reagan and I agreed that priority should be given in the arms control negotiations to an INF agreement with restraints on shorter-range systems, to a 50 per cent. reduction in strategic offensive weapons and to a ban on chemical weapons, all to be subject to effective verification. We also reaffirmed the need for effective nuclear deterrence as a cornerstone of NATO's strategy.

The President explained that the United States would proceed with its own strategic modernisation programme, including Trident. He confirmed the United States' full support for the arrangements made to modernise Britain's independent nuclear deterrent with Trident.

We also discussed the situation in the middle east. I thanked the President for what the United States had done on Syria. We agreed on the need for fresh impetus to efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israel conflict.

On Iran, we share the aim of bringing Iran back into better relations with the West and of bringing about an end to the Iran-Iraq war, without taking sides. The President reaffirmed that the United States does not pay ransom for hostages. That is our policy, too.

We discussed the situation in southern Africa, following the tragic death of President Machel. Both our Governments remain ready to contribute to stability and an end to violence in the area.

I explained to the President the reasons for our recent decision to establish an interim fisheries management and conservation zone round the Falklands; I told him that our preference remained a multilateral solution provided that the Argentine Government were prepared to co-operate.

This was a very useful visit. The agreed statement confirmed the Government's policies, which I set out in my speech in the debate on the Address, for achieving balanced reductions in nuclear and chemical weapons, while maintaining and modernising Britain's independent nuclear deterrent. That is a policy which is good for the NATO Alliance and good for Britain.

Mr. Neil Kinnock (Islwyn): During the Prime Minister's talks with President Reagan at the weekend, did she express her support for President Reagan's repeatedly stated objective of abolishing all strategic nuclear ballistic missiles within 10 years, or did she not tender such support? Why does the Prime Minister think that any United States President would continue to provide an 800 per cent. increase in British strategic nuclear missiles by supplying Trident when the United States of America was getting rid of such missiles? Will the Prime Minister explain why, if she wishes to remove disparities in the conventional balance in Europe, as we all do, she is diminishing conventional defence to buy Trident?

Did the Prime Minister associate her Government with the stated position of Chancellor Helmut Kohl that any future work on star wars must lie firmly within the narrow interpretation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty? Will the Prime Minister explain precisely what she meant when she said that star wars research should continue "up to feasibility"? Did the Prime Minister seek or receive any undertakings from President Reagan that the United States would continue to adhere to the provisions of the SALT II treaty?

On the other matters which the Prime Minister discussed with President Reagan, three weeks after rightly acting against Syria and rightly securing international co-operation because of its sponsorship of terrorism, is it not obvious that the Prime Minister severely discredits such efforts by so readily endorsing the President's trading with terrorism and his completely unconvincing explanation of his action? After Grenada, star wars, Libya and now arms for Iran, when will the Prime Minister realise that a special relationship is one thing, but sycophancy is another altogether?

The Prime Minister: As we said in our statement, priorities were set out for an intermediate nuclear forces agreement for a 50 per cent. cut over five years in United States and Soviet strategic offensive weapons and a ban on chemical weapons. We also made it clear that a nuclear deterrent is an essential part of the strategy of NATO. We made it clear that that is a very large programme and that we must tackle it. In the meantime, the modernisation of ballistic missiles must continue. Before there can be any further advance on the matters, there must be a system of effective verification. At the moment, despite the talks at Reykjavik, there has been no change in reality in the position.

With regard to diminishing conventional defence, the right hon. Gentleman must know that, if we took all the money on Trident, which is only 3 per cent. of our total defence budget, it would buy very few extra tanks, frigates or weapons and would not buy a fraction of the deterrence that the nuclear weapon buys. The right hon. Gentleman wants fundamentally to undermine Britain's defences by doing away with the independent nuclear deterrent, by discarding the American nuclear umbrella and by throwing out all American nuclear bases.

We did not discuss the provisions of the SALT II treaty on this occasion. They remain as before. They must be observed by both sides, and I hope that they will be observed by both sides. Difficulties will arise if both sides do not observe them and there are accusations against one side. That will mean that the provisions should be discussed in the relevant committee provided for in the anti-ballistic missile treaty.

With regard to Iran, may I point out—I know that the right hon. Gentleman never loses a chance to attack the President or the United States—that the President said in his broadcast, in which he set out the position:

> "The United States has not made concessions to those who hold our people captive in Lebanon. And we will not."

He went on to say:

> "The United States has not swapped boatloads or planeloads of American weapons for the return of American hostages."

He went on:

181

"And we will not."

Sir Anthony Kershaw (Stroud): Is my right hon. Friend aware of the sense of relief which will be felt by many that the United Kingdom's defence will continue to include the nuclear weapon, which is the only thing which will deter our only possible enemy, and without which we would return to the dangerous instability of the 1930s?

The Prime Minister: I agree with my hon. Friend. The nuclear deterrent has stopped both nuclear and conventional war. It has kept the peace, and that is the most important thing for the future — a peace with freedom and a peace with justice. To throw it away would be utterly futile and rash.

Dr. David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport): Is it not an act of folly to tie a British independent nuclear deterrent to the very ballistic missile system for whose total elimination not only the United States President, but the chiefs of staff, have authorised the negotiators at Geneva to negotiate with the Soviet Union?

The Prime Minister: As the right hon. Gentleman is aware, the statement which the President agreed with me said that the United States will continue to go ahead with the modernisation of strategic nuclear weapons.

Dr. Owen: Of course they will.

The Prime Minister: That is absolutely vital. We shall continue to get Trident. *[Interruption.]* I know that the right hon. Gentleman thinks that cruise will be an alternative, but that is utterly wrong. We considered that when we went for Trident. The right hon. Gentleman does not like the fact that we shall modernise with Trident, that the United States will continue to modernise with Trident and that the position has not in fact changed since Reykjavik.

Mr. Cranley Onslow (Woking): May I congratulate my right hon. Friend on what her visit did to clarify the way forward on arms control and disarmament negotiations in the West? But when she hears the great know-all, the Leader of the Social Democratic party, trying to cast doubt on the readiness of the Americans to help us modernise our deterrent, does it ever strike her as odd that the right hon. Gentleman is so willing to think that the French will lend us their deterrent so long as we want to use it?

The Prime Minister: I think that the result of the visit to Washington was to clarify the position absolutely; to make it clear that Britain's independent nuclear deterrent will be modernised with Trident and that the United States will also modernise her strategic nuclear system with Trident. In the meantime, we shall continue, as a matter of priority, with the other things — negotiations on the INF agreement, on the 50 per cent. cuts over five years in the United States, provided, of course, that the Soviet Union will unlink the whole matter from SDI. The President was absolutely right to go ahead with SDI. I was asked, I think on a previous question, "What about research?". Research to me, in common-sense terms, means research up to feasibility.

Mr. J. Enoch Powell (South Down): Why, for the purposes of the Prime Minister's conference with the American President, was it necessary that officials of the Northern Ireland office should be kept on constant availability to supply emergency briefing?

The Prime Minister: If they were, it was not for me.

Mr. Michael Heseltine (Henley): Following the question to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister from the right hon. Member for Plymouth, Devonport (Dr. Owen), does my right hon. Friend think that our independent deterrent is safer in the hands of our allies, the Americans, in preparing it, or in the hands of the Liberal party.

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend makes his own point very effectively. Opposition Members lose no chance of undermining our great ally, the United States, and take every chance of undermining Britain's defences, and, therefore, making us a possibly fellow-travelling nation.

Mr. Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent): Did the Prime Minister have any discussions with the President on the desperately urgent question of stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons and applying some ban on nuclear tests, or does she think that such a discussion would not go very well with her new well-found discovery of the advisability of selling weapons to terrorist states? If she agrees with the President of the United States on that subject, why does she think that the Secretary of State in the United States does not do the same?

The Prime Minister: The right hon. Gentleman also continues his usual policy of undermining our alliance with the United States. With regard to a comprehensive test ban, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, the question there is one of verification. Verification is absolutely crucial to any negotiations that we have with the Soviet Union on arms reduction. If we agreed without verification, we should be undermining the security, and therefore the freedom and justice, of Britain.

Sir Frederic Bennett (Torbay): Although we all welcome the news that new attempts will be made to get rid of all medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, on both sides, and subject to proper verification, can my right hon. Friend confirm that that process of reduction and ultimately, we hope, removal, will also apply to the so-called short-range nuclear weapons? The Soviets now have a clear superiority of 9:1, and many of those so-called short-range weapons can reach and destroy substantial parts of the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister: Yes, that was part of the statement that we made. A zero-zero agreement on intermediate nuclear forces would be subject to effective verification and to strict control of the missiles replaced in the far east on Russian soil and in the United States. We are talking of about 100 missiles each. It would also be subject to negotiating at the same time on shorter-range systems. As my hon. Friend has said, the Soviet Union has an enormous preponderance of them, and a far greater number than NATO has. As my hon. Friend also pointed out, Britain is within their range, so that would have to be part of the INF negotiations.

Mr. Eric S. Heffer (Liverpool, Walton): Is the Prime Minister aware that some of us think that she skated far too quickly over the question of the United States giving arms to Iran? Can she tell us what exactly was said about that? Did the right hon. Lady make it clear that British people feel that no one should be selling or giving arms to Iran, which has a worse human rights record than any other nation in the world at present?

The Prime Minister: This country's policy on weapons to either Iran or Iraq has been set out. I make it clear that it is that

"(i) We should maintain our consistent refusal to supply any lethal equipment to either side;
(ii) Subject to that overriding consideration, we should attempt to fulfil existing contracts and obligations;
(iii) We should not, in future, approve orders for any defence equipment which, in our view, would significantly enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict;
(iv) In line with this policy, we should continue to scrutinise rigorously all applications for export licences for the supply of defence equipment to Iran and Iraq."
—[*Official Report*, 29 October 1985; Vol. 84 c. *450*.]

Mr. Nicholas Soames (Crawley): What steps do my right hon. Friend and the President intend to take to give a fresh impetus to resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute?

The Prime Minister: We had some discussion of that. Many of us are very worried that there appears to be a gap at present in the negotiating stance. We think it important that, some time during the coming year, the impetus should be renewed in order to try to obtain negotiations between King Hussein and representatives of the Palestinians and the Israeli Government, against the background of an international group of people, as we have tried to do in the past. The difficulty arises in trying to obtain proper representatives of the Palestinian people. So far, we have not succeeded, but I imagine that efforts will be renewed.

Dr. Norman A. Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow): Did the President make any criticism, however mild, of the reckless decision to impose a fisheries zone round the Falklands, or did he offer his support to the Government over their foolish decision?

The Prime Minister: As I explained to the President, the decision was absolutely justified.

Dr. Godman: What did he say?

The Prime Minister: Since April 1985, we have tried to negotiate a multilateral fishing agreement.

Dr. Godman: What did he say?

The Prime Minister: We have not succeeded, because Argentina would not co-operate through the Food and Agriculture Organisation. I therefore explained to the President that when Argentina made bilateral agreements over waters that affected us, we had no option but to declare a 150-mile conservation zone. I think that perhaps for the first time the President understood the precise position. I also pointed out that it was Argentina that, within 200 miles of the Falklands, had shot at a Taiwanese fishing boat and killed some of those on board.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest): Was there any discussion of the dollar fund for Ireland? Does the President know of the deep resentment felt over this, in Northern Ireland because of its link with the Anglo-Irish agreement?

The Prime Minister: No, that matter was not discussed at all; nor were Irish matters really on the agenda for that meeting.

Mr. Andrew Faulds (Warley, East): Did the Prime Minister consider, while she was in the United States, that General Vernon Walters, on his visit to London to disseminate the President's disinformation campaign about Libyan activities, was actually lying to her? Has the possibility not crossed the Prime Minister's mind that the President, as regards hostages and Iran, was probably treating her likewise?

The Prime Minister: No, I reject what the hon. Gentleman has said. Many Opposition Members take every opportunity to try to find fault with the Americans.

Mr. Faulds: Was Vernon Walters lying?

The Prime Minister: I should make it absolutely clear that the Americans are our most important allies in NATO. Under President Reagan, the Alliance has gained in strength and, therefore, Britain and NATO's members have gained in security. By their attitude, Opposition Members do everything that they can to undermine Britain's fundamental security.

Sir Anthony Grant (Cambridgeshire, South-West): When my right hon. Friend and the President discussed the consequences of the withdrawal of United States bases and of the unilateral abandonment of the British nuclear deterrent, did they also consider the consequences of the threatened resignation from any future Labour Government of the right hon. Member for Leeds, East (Mr. Healey)?

The Prime Minister: I did not go into that detailed matter. I think that the President, and indeed many members of the Alliance, are aware that the Opposition's present policy would fundamentally undermine not only Britain's security but NATO. That shows that they would never be fit to govern Britain.

Mr. A. J. Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed): How is it an act of friendship to our ally, the United States, to support the President on a venture that was not only wrong but was not supported either by some of the key members of his Administration or by the majority of the American people? Is that the sort of subservience that the Prime Minister expects from the President over the Falklands negotiations issue, or does she expect him to adopt a better view of the latest Argentine Government initiative than the Minister in the other place who, earlier this afternoon, said that it was just old wine in new bottles?

The Prime Minister: I have made our fisheries policy clear with regard to the Falklands. May I make our policy on sovereignty absolutely clear? We are not going to negotiate the sovereignty of the Falklands. I understand that Liberal Members, and perhaps SDP Members—although I am not quite sure about them—are prepared to negotiate sovereignty, but we are not. Perhaps that meets the hon. Gentleman's point.

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch): Is it not a major plank of Soviet propaganda to seek to equate the stationing of nuclear weapons and bases in eastern Europe with their stationing in western Europe? Does my right hon. Friend agree that that is a fundamental bit of disinformation, and that until countries such as East Germany or Czechoslovakia have the same opportunities as are found in democracies such as Britain or West Germany to choose whether they want allied bases stationed in their countries, she should remain extremely wary of such unfortunate comparisons?

The Prime Minister: With regard to the INF negotiations, we are talking about zero-zero in Europe with, subject to effective verification, 100 SS20s in the far

east of the Soviet Union and 100 missiles in the United States. It is therefore a global agreement. As I have said time and again, it will have to be subject to effective verification, and obtaining that will not be easy.

Mr. Merlyn Rees (Morley and Leeds, South): When the Prime Minister met Mr. Shultz, did he express support for the President's policy?

The Prime Minister: I had a long talk with Mr. Shultz, and I think that the right hon. Gentleman will know that he has made a long speech. I think that Mr. Shultz understood our position perfectly. He was at Camp David, and he agreed with the statement which was put out.

Sir **John Farr** (Harborough): Notwithstanding that view of the Leader of the Opposition, which on defence seems to come straight from Moscow, I ask my right hon. Friend to reaffirm that she made it clear to the President of the United States that there was no question of our surrendering or discussing the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, or the surrounding 150-mile zone?

The Prime Minister: At that time I think that the proposal had not been made, but I shall make our position clear now. It used to be the position on both sides of the House — this was before certain leaders of the Opposition parties met Mr. Alfonsin—that the wishes of the Falkland Islanders were paramount and that self-determination was the policy. The wishes of the Falkland Islanders were paramount. I understand from what the Leader of the Opposition said when he met Mr. Alfonsin, and what he said at a press conference, that that is not his policy, and that it is the interests of the Falkland Islanders, interests determined not by the islanders but by other Governments. We stand by the policy that the wishes of the Falkland Islanders are paramount, and we have no intention of negotiating the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with the Argentines.

Mr. Allen McKay (Barnsley, West and Penistone): May I return to the supply of arms to Iran? Will the Prime Minister assure the House and those outside that the armaments supplied are not those that could be used against British seamen in the Gulf? Have the Government any intention of reviewing instructions that are given to the seamen who sail the Gulf?

The Prime Minister: We are watching that extremely carefully because obviously, if need be, those seamen will have to be protected. The position on the supply of armaments either to Iran or Iraq is as I set out in detail. I was reading from a statement made to the House by my right hon. and learned Friend the Foreign Secretary in answer to a question on 29 October 1985. That is still the policy.

Several Hon. Members *rose*——

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must take into account the fact that we have a heavy day in front of us. I shall call two more Members from each side of the House and then we must move on.

Mr. David Ashby (Leicestershire, North-West): Did my right hon. Friend explain to the American President the Government's abhorrence of the Iranian regime, especially its mass executions of the Bahai people? Did she explain also to President Reagan that we would not allow Land Rover to export to Iraq?

The Prime Minister: We share my hon. Friend's views on human rights in Iran. As he knows, we frequently make statements about them. As my hon. Friend knows as well, we have diplomatic representation in Iran to follow up these matters and to let us know about them.

What was the second part of my hon. Friend's question?

Mr. Ashby: About Land Rover exporting to Iraq.

The Prime Minister: That would fall within the fourth criterion to which I have referred. As far as I am aware, we have not yet received any request for an export licence.

Mr. D. E. Thomas (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy): The Prime Minister has mentioned verification about six times. Does she accept that it would be scientifically feasible to verify the exploding of nuclear devices for the test purposes to a low level of yield? Will she therefore tell the House what aspect of verification she is still concerned about?

The Prime Minister: No, I do not accept—I have answered in detail questions on this matter in the House—that we can absolutely verify testing sufficiently for a full comprehensive test ban treaty. I believe that it can be done sufficiently, however, for two minor treaties that have yet to be ratified by the United States.

Mr. Nigel Forman (Carshalton and Wallington): Is my right hon. Friend aware that those of us on the Government Benches who are increasingly concerned about the present and prospective military imbalance within Europe were relieved to learn that one result of her talks in Washington was to confirm that, while supporting the idea of 50 per cent. cuts in strategic missiles by 1991, she is now attaching what I might call the French condition to further cuts, which is that the Soviet Union should make disproportionate and naturally just reductions in its conventional superior forces in Europe before we would agree to go beyond that point?

The Prime Minister: Yes, the statement read:

"reductions in nuclear weapons would increase the importance of eliminating conventional disparities. Nuclear weapons cannot be dealt with in isolation, given the need for stable overall balance at all times."

I stress again to my hon. Friend that the discussions at Reykjavik have not altered so far the position on the ground. I believe that the programme of priorities which I have set out would take a long time to complete. The first step would be to see whether these matters could be verified effectively.

Mr. James Lamond (Oldham, Central and Royton): Is the Prime Minister aware that in seeking to convince us against all logic that the way towards peace between Iraq and Iran is to send arms to one side, and the way towards world peace is to arm ourselves to the teeth, in the meantime increasing our nuclear weaponry as much as we can, she has convinced the British people that her protestations about being a multilateral disarmer are just so much nonsense, and that she is only a rubber stamp for the President of the United States?

The Prime Minister: The hon. Gentleman is talking nonsense, and he knows it. The hon. Gentleman's policy is for Britain to give up her weapons unilaterally and for the Soviet Union to keep its. That may be his policy but it is not ours.

ANEXO 7

Howe kritisiert Falkland-Resolution

U.G. LONDON, 26. November. Der britische Außenminister Howe hat die mit großer Mehrheit angenommene Falkland/Malwinen-Resolution der UN-Vollversammlung bedauert, die Großbritannien und Argentinien auffordert, über „alle Aspekte" des Falles zu verhandeln, das heißt auch über den Übergang der Gebietshoheit an Argentinien, was London ablehnt. 116 Staaten, darunter Amerika und die EG-Partner Frankreich, Griechenland, Italien, Spanien und erstmals Holland, stimmten für den von Argentinien eingebrachten Antrag. Die Bundesrepublik und die anderen EG-Staaten enthielten sich der Stimme. Nur noch drei Länder – Belize, Oman und Sri Lanka – stellten sich mit Großbritannien gegen Argentiniens Wünsche. Howe sagte, die UN-Resolution um die 1982 von Argentinien besetzten und von Großbritannien zurückeroberten Inseln mißachte das Selbstbestimmungsrecht der Inselbevölkerung, die bei Großbritannien bleiben wolle. Der britische UN-Botschafter Thomson beschrieb den argentinischen Antrag als „für Außenstehende verführerisch durch seine Einfachheit und seine kosmetische Wirkung". Howe sagte, die UN-Generalversammlung übersehe die vielen britischen Verhandlungsangebote, auf die Argentinien nicht eingehe. Die Abstimmung schwäche nicht Großbritanniens Entschlossenheit, seine Verpflichtungen gegenüber der Inselbevölkerung einzuhalten und zu gleicher Zeit für bessere Beziehungen mit Argentinien zu arbeiten. Als „eine Sanktion gegen die Unversöhnlichkeit Großbritanniens" hat der argentinische Dante unterdessen die Abstimmung zum Falkland-Konflikt bezeichnet. In einem in Buenos Aires ausgestrahlten Rundfunkinterview aus New York sagte Caputo, durch die Abstimmung in der UN sei der Druck auf die Regierung in London gewachsen.

Resumen:

HOWE CRITICA LA RESOLUCION RESPECTO DE LAS ISLAS MALVINAS

El Ministro británico del Exterior, Howe, lamentó la resolución de la Asamblea General de la ONU sobre las Malvinas, en la que se requiere que Gran Bretaña y Argentina "negocien" todos los aspectos del caso, también él de la transferencia de la soberanía a Argentina, a lo que Londres se niega. 116 países votaron a favor de Argentina, entre ellos los Estados Unidos, Francia, Grecia, Italia, España y por primera vez Holanda. La RFA y los demás países de la CEE se abstuvieron del voto y Beliza, Oman y Sri Lanka votaron en contra. La resolución no respeta el derecho de autodeterminación de los habitantes de las Malvinas que quieren seguir siendo ciudadanos británicos. El Embajador británico ante la ONU calificó la solicitud argentina como "tentadora por su sencillez y su efecto cosmético para los profanos". Howe dijo asimismo, que la Asamblea General de la ONU está haciendo caso omiso de las múltiples propuestas británicas de negociación, a las que Argentina no quiere acceder. La votación no debilita a Gran Bretaña en su decisión de cumplir con sus responsabilidades para con la población insular y al mismo tiempo promover una mejoría en las relaciones entre ambos países. Por otro lado el Ministro argentino del Exterior, Dante Caputo, calificó la votación como "una sanción contra la implacabilidad de Gran Bretaña" y debido a la votación crece la presión sobre el Gobierno de Londres.

Großbritannien soll verhandeln

UN-Vollversammlung regt Gespräche über Falklandinseln an

NEW YORK, 26. November (AP/AFP). Die Vollversammlung der Vereinten Nationen (UN) hat am Dienstag in einer Resolution Großbritannien wie schon im vergangenen Jahr aufgefordert, mit Argentinien über die Zukunft der Falklandinseln (Malwinen) zu verhandeln. Die Entschließung wurde mit 116 gegen vier Stimmen bei 34 Enthaltungen angenommen. Gegen die Resolution votierten Großbritannien und die ehemaligen britischen Kolonien Belize, Oman und Sri Lanka. Die meisten westeuropäischen Länder und die USA stimmten dafür.

Der britische UN-Botschafter Sir John Thomson wies die für seine Regierung nicht bindende Entschließung zurück. Großbritannien sei nicht bereit, über den argentinischen Anspruch auf die Inselgruppe im Südatlantik zu verhandeln, sagte Thomson. Außenminister Geoffrey Howe erklärte in London, die 1800 Falkländer seien Briten und wollen es auch bleiben. Seine Regierung sei aber weiterhin bereit, mit Buenos Aires über die Verbesserung der Beziehungen zu reden. Für Großbritannien bedeutet die Abstimmung vom Dienstag nach Ansicht von Beobachtern die schwerste diplomatische Niederlage in der Falkland-Frage seit fünf Jahren.

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BUENOS AIRES (Reuter). Als „eine Sanktion gegen die Unversöhnlichkeit Großbritanniens" bezeichnete der argentinische Außenminister Dante Caputo am Dienstag die Abstimmung in der UN-Vollversammlung. Caputo hatte am Montag vor der UN der britischen Regierung vorgeworfen, sie wolle vor den britischen Parlamentswahlen bewaffnete Aktionen provozieren, um die erwünschten Wahlgewinne zu erreichen.

Resumen:

GRAN BRETAÑA DEBE NEGOCIAR

Nueva York, 26 de noviembre

La Asamblea General de la ONU exigió el martes en una resolución que Gran Bretaña y Argentina negocien sobre el futuro de las Islas Malvinas. La resolución fue aceptada con 116 votos, 34 abstenciones y 4 votos en contra. El Embajador británico ante la ONU, Sir John Thomson, rechazó la resolución diciendo que no era obligatoria para su Gobierno. Gran Bretaña no estaría dispuesta a negociar el reclamo argentino sobre el grupo de islas situadas en el Atlántico Sur. El Ministro británico del Exterior, Howe, declaró en Londres que los 1800 Malvinenses son ciudadanos británicos y lo quieren seguir siendo, no obstante su Gobierno estaría dispuesto a conversar con Buenos Aires respecto de una mejoría en las relaciones entre ambos países. Según la opinión de observadores la votación del martes constituye para Gran Bretaña el más grave fracaso diplomático que ha sufrido en el caso de las Malvinas desde hace 5 años.

Buenos Aires:

Dante Caputo calificó el martes la votación de la Asamblea General de la ONU como "una sanción contra la implacabilidad de Gran Bretaña". El lunes ante la ONU había reprochado al Gobierno británico querer provocar acciones bélicas antes de la celebración de elecciones parlamentarias para conseguir así los deseados votos.

186

UNO: London soll über Falklandinseln verhandeln

New York (AP)

Die Vollversammlung der Vereinten Nationen hat Großbritannien erneut aufgefordert, mit Argentinien über die Zukunft der Falklandinseln zu verhandeln. Die Entschließung wurde mit 116 gegen vier Stimmen bei 34 Enthaltungen angenommen. Eine gleichlautende Resolution war bereits im vergangenen Jahr verabschiedet worden.

Gegen die Resolution votierten neben Großbritannien Belize, Oman und Sri Lanka. Die meisten westeuropäischen Länder und die USA stimmten dafür. Der britische UNO-Botschafter Sir John Thomson wies die für London nicht bindende Entschließung zurück. Seine Regierung sei nicht bereit, über den argentinischen Anspruch auf die Inselgruppe im Südatlantik zu verhandeln.

Der britische Außenminister Geoffrey Howe erklärte, London gedenke nicht, über die Souveränität der Inselgruppe zu verhandeln. Die 1800 Falkländer seien Briten und wollten es auch bleiben. Seine Regierung sei weiterhin bereit, mit Buenos Aires über die Verbesserung der Beziehungen zu reden.

Resumen:

ONU: <u>LONDRES DEBE NEGOCIAR LA CUESTION DE LAS MALVINAS</u>

La Asamblea General de la ONU exigió nuevamente a Gran Bretaña que negocie con Argentina sobre el futuro de las Islas Malvinas. La resolución fue aceptada con 116 votos contra 4 y 34 abstenciones. Una resolución idéntica ya había sido aprobada el año pasado. En contra de la resolución votaron junto con Gran Bretaña Belize, Omán y Sri Lanka. La mayoría de los países de Europa Occidental votaron en favor. El Embajador británico ante la ONU, Sir Thomson, rechazó la resolución como no obligataria para Londres. Su Gobierno no estaría dispuesto a negociar sobre el reclamo argentino. El Ministro británico del Exterior, Howe, declaró que Londres no piensa negociar la soberanía sobre el grupo de islas. Los 1800 Malvinenses serían ciudadanos británicos y también quieren seguir siéndolo. Su Gobierno sigue estar dispuesto a conversar con Buenos Aires respecto de una mejoría en las relaciones.

Regierungsprogramm auf Abruf

U.G. LONDON, 12. November. Die Regierung Thatcher hat ihr wahrscheinlich letztes Legislaturprogramm vor der nächsten Unterhauswahl bei der feierlichen Wiedereröffnung des Parlaments durch die Königin bekanntgegeben. Unter den neunzehn Gesetzesvorlagen ragen verschärfte Maßnahmen gegen Kriminalität und Drogenhandel hervor. Das Programm wurde so angelegt, daß es jederzeit abgebrochen werden kann, wenn Frau Thatcher die Wahlen – wahrscheinlich für Herbst 1987 – ausruft. Die Höchststrafe für unerlaubtes Tragen von Schußwaffen wird nach den Gesetzesplänen künftig lebenslängliche Haft sein. Die Gerichte sollen Vollmacht zur Beschlagnahme des Geldgewinns aus schweren Verbrechen erhalten, die Auslieferungsgesetze verschärft werden. Die Regierung will der Landesverteidigung, die sich strategisch auf Atomwaffen stützt, weiterhin „größte Aufmerksamkeit" widmen. Sie will „ihre Verpflichtungen gegenüber den Falklandinseln einhalten", daß heißt, sie denkt nicht an die Preisgabe der südatlantischen Inseln an Argentinien, das die Hauptinsel 1982 für kurze Zeit besetzt hielt, bis Großbritannien seine Gebietshoheit wiederherstellte. Die Regierung Thatcher will gemeinsam mit den Partnern in der Europäischen Gemeinschaft und im Commonwealth für friedlichen Wandel in Südafrika eintreten. Energische Anstrengungen würden zur Bekämpfung des internationalen Terrorismus und des Rauschgifthandels gemacht. Weitere Privatisierungsmaßnahmen seien geplant.

Südamerika wählt zunehmend digital

Siemens hat Aufträge aus sieben Ländern

GM. MÜNCHEN, 2. November. In Südamerika werden die Telefon-Netze Schritt für Schritt ausgebaut. Siemens ist dabei mit von der Partie. Das Unternehmen konnte bisher insgesamt Aufträge für 800000 Anschlußeinheiten entgegennehmen, wobei ein Teil der Einrichtungen in nationalen Fertigungsstätten gebaut wird. Die Position in Südamerika spricht für die technische Leistungsfähigkeit des großen deutschen Elektrounternehmens, vor allem seines digitalen EWSD-Vermittlungssystems.

Sieben von elf südamerikanischen Ländern haben Siemens inzwischen EWSD-Aufträge für öffentliche Kommunikationsnetze im Gesamtwert von 600 Millionen DM erteilt. Nach Argentinien, Brasilien, Chile und Paraguay waren dies in jüngster Zeit Kolumbien, Uruguay und Venezuela. Deren Aufträge haben allein ein Volumen von 200 Millionen DM; die digitalen öffentlichen EWSD-Telefonvermittlungssysteme sollen 1987 installiert werden. Zu den drei neuen Aufträgen gehören auch Schulungs-, Software- und Servicezentren.

In Kolumbien wird die nationale Telefongesellschaft ETB, Bogotá, Telefonämter mit über 240000 Anschlußeinheiten erhalten. Von diesen werden in den Geschäftszentren der Hauptstadt Bogotá bereits 5000 für ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), die Nachrichtentechnik der Zukunft, bestimmt sein. In Venezuela hat die Fernmeldegesellschaft CANTV, Caracas, beschlossen, ein landesweites digitales Telefonnetz aufzubauen. Der erste Auftrag über 50000 Anschlüsse wurde jetzt an Siemens vergeben. Ein zweiter Vertrag über die Lieferung von EWSD-Ämtern mit insgesamt über 280000 Anschlußeinheiten steht vor dem Abschluß. Davon sollen 100000 Einheiten direkt geliefert werden; der größte Teil soll in einer bis 1987 eigens zu errichtenden Fertigung in Venezuela hergestellt werden.

Schließlich erhält die staatliche Fernmeldeverwaltung Antel in Uruguay, Montevideo, von Siemens ein EWSD-Ortsamt mit über 30000 Anschlußeinheiten sowie Übertragungseinrichtungen in Lichtwellenleiter- und Richtfunktechnik. In aller Welt hat Siemens bisher von 49 Fernmeldegesellschaften aus 25 Ländern Aufträge für insgesamt mehr als 6,5 Millionen Anschlüsse erhalten. Darunter sind auch Bestellungen aus den Vereinigten Staaten, dem größten Markt auf diesem Gebiet.

EN ARGENTINA LA INFLACION NUEVAMENTE CAUSA ESTRAGOS

Se espera una tasa anual del 130% / Fracaso del Plan Austral

Por Willy Otten Philippengracht, Buenos Aires.

RESUMEN: El gobierno argentino no ha logrado introducir un sólido "cambio" económico y financiero con el Plan Austral. Pese a aparentes éxitos iniciales, nuevas tendencias inflacionarias y el deterioro de la actividad industrial y comercial indican que las medidas de estabilización del gobierno han fracasado. Argentina no sabe aprovechar sus excelentes posibilidades de desarrollo, limitándose, más bien, a vivir de sus recursos.

"Una vez más, un corto período de crecimiento ha resultado ser una fase de prosperidad aparente". Si bien todavía no se puede prever si Argentina estaría cayendo por enésima vez en una profunda recesión, tampoco se vislumbra un desarrollo que corresponda a las posibilidades del país. En la industria, el optimismo inicial deja paso cada vez más al escepticismo, debido a nuevas pérdidas sufridas y a la incertidumbre en lo que respecta a las futuras decisiones de índole económico-financiera por parte del gobierno. El poder de adquisición ha disminuido, el desempleo y la deuda externa aumentan.

La poca disposición a la inversión es una clara señal de la desconfianza que impera en el sector privado. A pesar de su buena voluntad, el gobierno aún no ha descubierto la forma de atraer el capital.

"Los numerosos viajes emprendidos por el Presidente Alfonsín al exterior han traído resultados más bien magros para la economía y el comercio". Pese a los logros iniciales del Plan Austral, la relajación de los controles de precios y salarios demuestra que estos primeros éxitos descansaban sobre terreno endeble.

La nueva moneda introducida, el Austral, estuvo sobrevalorada durante mucho tiempo. Por otro lado, el gobierno no cedió ante la presión demagógica de los sindicatos peronistas. Sin embargo, el popular Alfonsín y su ministro de economía, Sourrouille, no aprovecharon un tiempo valioso para emprender reformas estructurales necesarias hace mucho tiempo: depuración del sector público, privatización de empresas estatales deficitarias, reforma del sistema tributario, equilibrio del déficit presupuestario.

A ello se suma la subida de tarifas en el sector de servicios públicos, que perjudica a las empresas privadas, y los escándalos de corrupción en la banca privada, en los que el gobierno no ha intervenido con la firmeza necesaria. Tampoco existe una política económico-financiera definida en términos claros. Si bien la política del gobierno dice dar prioridad a la lucha contra la inflación, parece circunscribirse a combatir los síntomas (y no la causa

También las exportaciones han decrecido, y la balanza comercial arroja un superávit menor en 1.400 millones de dólares al del año pasado. Responsable en parte de la caída de las exportaciones es la reducción de las ventas de trigo a la Unión Soviética. Dentro de pocos años, Argentina tendrá que buscar nuevos compradores, ya que la URSS se autoabastecerá, o bien comprará sus cereales en la CE, Canadá o los EE.UU. Aunque Argentina encontrara nuevos importadores, ello no solucionaría el problema. Pese a algunos éxitos en sus esfuerzos por diversificar su exportación y aumentar la competitividad internacional de la economía argentina, los únicos productos de exportación de peso en el país son la carne y los cereales.

El gobierno argentino echa la culpa de esta impasse al extranjero, pero ello no corresponde en lo absoluto a la realidad. Es una excusa para tapar las fallas estructurales que existen hace tiempo y una política de comercio exterior que carece de dinamismo (que se refleja, entre otras cosas, en el impuesto a las exportaciones y la pesada tramitación burocrática). Al parecer todavía no se ha reconocido la imperiosa necesidad de aliviar y diversificar la exportación al máximo, pese al problema del monto de la deuda externa.

También en este aspecto Argentina está perdiendo un tiempo precioso. Según el "Buenos Aires Herald", el país debería emprender "ahora mismo" todas las medidas necesarias para evitar su inminente caída al escalón de los países pobres. Pero muchos políticos, empresarios y sindicalistas constituyen ellos mismos su peor obstáculo: creen que al país le basta con vivir de sus recursos, que, por cierto, aún son considerables.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG 3.11.86 pág. 14

In Argentinien grassiert wieder die Inflation

Jahresrate von 130 Prozent zu erwarten / Plan „Austral" gescheitert / Von Willy Otten Philippengracht

BUENOS AIRES, Anfang November. Der argentinischen Regierung ist es mit dem Mitte des vergangenen Jahres eingeleiteten Plan Austral nicht gelungen, eine solide wirtschaftliche und finanzielle Wende herbeizuführen. Die chronischen Probleme des südamerikanischen Landes sind seitdem kaum einer Lösung nähergerückt. Argentinien, das seine vorzüglichen Entwicklungsmöglichkeiten nicht zu nutzen versteht, lebt weiterhin von der Substanz. Zwar konnte der außergewöhnlich starke Inflationsauftrieb mit den scharfen dirigistischen Maßnahmen des zunächst von großen Erwartungen begleiteten Stabilisierungsprogramms deutlich abgeschwächt und auch vorübergehend eine konjunkturelle Belebung verzeichnet werden. Doch waren neue inflationäre Tendenzen, die zu einer Zunahme der Verbraucherpreise um 8,8 Prozent im August und



Juan Vital Sourrouille, Argentiniens Wirtschaftsminister Foto: AP.

7,2 Prozent im September führten, die Alarmsignale, die das Scheitern des Plan Austral einläuteten. Seitdem nimmt das Wachstum in den meisten Industriebranchen und im Handel ab.

Wieder hat sich eine kurze Wachstumsperiode als eine Phase der Scheinprosperität erwiesen. Auf der Basis der Inflation vom September beträgt die hochgerechnete Jahresinflation 130 Prozent. Es ist noch nicht abzusehen, ob Argentinien abermals in eine tiefe Rezession hineinschlittert. Eine den Möglichkeiten des Landes entsprechende normale Entwicklung zeichnet sich allerdings ebenfalls nicht ab. Der frühere Optimismus in der immer noch zu allenfalls 65 Prozent ausgelasteten Industrie ist angesichts erneuter Rentabilitätseinbußen und Ungewißheiten hinsichtlich künftiger wirtschafts- und finanzpolitischer Entscheidungen der Regierung einer zunehmenden Skepsis gewichen. Lohn- und Gehaltsempfänger müssen weitere Kaufkraftverluste hinnehmen, die Arbeitslosigkeit nimmt zu, die Auslandsschulden steigen. Überall heißt es, die Stimmung sei keineswegs gut.

Mangelnde Investitionsbereitschaft ist ein klares Zeichen für das in der Privatwirtschaft vorherrschende Mißtrauen. Fluchtkapital fließt allenfalls dann in bescheidenem Umfang zurück, wenn das Risiko spekulativer Anlagen als gering betrachtet werden kann. Die Regierung versteht es trotz guten Willens nicht, Auslandskapital anzuziehen. Die vielen Auslandsreisen Staatspräsident Alfonsins haben für Wirtschaft und Handel eher magere Ergebnisse gebracht. Die Variablen des Plan Austral waren nach und nach aus den Fugen geraten, nachdem seine Schocktherapie zunächst vermeintlich nachhaltige Stabilisierungserfolge ermöglicht hatte. Jedoch zeigte die Lockerung der Preis- und Lohnkontrollen, die von einer laschen Geldpolitik der Zentralbank begleitet wurde, sehr schnell, auf welch brüchigem Boden diese Anfangserfolge standen.

Während der konsequenten Einhaltung des Schockprogramms bis vor wenigen Monaten hatte sich viel Inflationsdruck angestaut, wenngleich von der Importseite her keine inflationären Impulse ausgingen. Die mit dem Plan Austral eingeführte Währung „Austral" war, weil erforderliche Abwertungen gescheut wurden, lange überbewertet. Andererseits behielt die Regierung gegenüber der streiklustigen, von den oppositionellen Peronisten beherrschten Gewerkschaftszentrale CGT die Nerven. Sie ließ sich von der demagogischen Agitation der Gewerkschaftsführer nicht beeindrucken.

Jedoch nutzten der populäre Staatspräsident Raul Alfonsin und Wirtschaftsminister Juan Vital Sourrouille den Zeitgewinn nicht, um entschlossen überfällige strukturelle Reformen einzuleiten. Das große Problem der Strukturbereinigung im öffentlichen Bereich wurde unverständlicherweise wieder einmal auf die lange Bank geschoben. Der Staatsapparat ist immer noch maßlos aufgebauscht. Die seit langem geplante Überführung defizitärer Staatsunternehmen in die Hand der Privatwirtschaft kommt nicht voran. Am ineffizienten Steuersystem ist nichts wesentliches geändert worden. Das Haushaltsdefizit liegt trotz erhöhter Einnahmen bei über neun Prozent des Bruttoinlandsprodukts.

Mit kräftigen Tariferhöhungen für öffentliche Dienstleistungen hat die Regierung sich gegenüber den einem Preisdiktat unterworfenen Privatunternehmen auch nicht gerade vorbildlich verhalten. Skandale in Privatbanken, in die angeblich auch die vor einigen Monaten ausgeschiedene Führung der Zentralbank verwickelt ist, setzen die Regierung dem Vorwurf aus, nicht entschieden gegen die Korruption eingeschritten zu sein. Ein klares Konzept für die Wirtschafts- und Finanzpolitik ist nicht zu erkennen. Als vorrangig wird zwar auch jetzt die Inflationsbekämpfung genannt, von deren Erfolg eine allmähliche Erholung der Wirtschaft abhängt. Jedoch scheint sich die Regierung darauf zu beschränken, an den Symptomen zu kurieren.

Sie läuft erneut Gefahr, die Chancen für eine Beseitigung der Grundübel der Misere zu verspielen. Die Privatwirtschaft bemängelt darüber hinaus, daß es der Regierung nicht gelungen ist, den Plan Austral in ein liberaleres Programm zu überführen. Nicht nur die wieder hohe Inflation, sondern auch die ungünstige Entwicklung des Außenhandels trübt die Perspektiven für eine Überwindung der Krise: Stark rückläufige Exporte lassen bei einer Zunahme der Importe in diesem Jahr einen Handelsbilanzüberschuß von höchstens 2.3 Milliarden Dollar erwarten. Das wären 1.4 Milliarden Dollar weniger als im vergangenen Jahr.

Die unbefriedigenden Ausfuhrergebnisse beruhen größtenteils auf den erheblich verminderten Weizenlieferungen an die Sowjetunion. Die sowjetische Führung hat Staatspräsident Alfonsin bei seinem Besuch in Moskau Mitte Oktober zwar wieder umfangreiche Weizenkäufe in Argentinien für die kommenden vier bis fünf Jahre in Aussicht gestellt, jedoch zugleich darauf hingewiesen, daß sie danach entweder Selbstversorger sein wird oder die dann noch erforderlichen Einkäufe bei der EG, in Kanada oder den Vereinigten Staaten vornehmen will. Argentinien muß sich folglich darauf einstellen, schon in wenigen Jahren die Sowjetunion als seinen lange Zeit größten Weizenabnehmer ganz zu verlieren.

Wird es Ersatzmärkte finden? Teilweise könnten Japan, Brasilien und afrikanische Länder einspringen. Aber damit wäre das immer deutlicher zutage tretende Dilemma des argentinischen Außenhandels nicht gelöst. Trotz einiger Fortschritte bei den spärlichen Bemühungen, das Exportangebot zu erweitern und die internationale Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der Wirtschaft zu stärken, hängt Argentinien immer noch von Getreide und Fleisch als den einzigen ins Gewicht fallenden Ausfuhrprodukten ab.

Die in Buenos Aires immer wieder allen Ernstes vorgetragene Meinung, das Land könne einfach deshalb wirtschaftlich nicht wachsen, weil das Ausland dies nicht zulasse, entspricht keineswegs der Realität. Diese einseitige Schuldzuweisung ist eine Ausrede für die schon seit langem anhaltende strukturelle Fehlentwicklung und die undynamische Außenhandelspolitik. Zu dieser Politik gehören auch so unverständliche Belastungen der Exporteure wie Ausfuhrsteuern und umständliche administrative Verfahren. Trotz des drückenden Problems der hohen Auslandsverschuldung wird offenbar immer noch nicht die dringliche Notwendigkeit erkannt, den Export weitestgehend zu erleichtern und zu diversifizieren.

Auch hier verliert Argentinien ständig wertvolle Zeit für die Modernisierung seiner Wirtschaft. Das Land müsse „right now" alle notwendigen Schritte unternehmen, um seinen drohenden Rückfall auf die Stufe der armen Länder zu stoppen, forderte dieser Tage die in Englisch erscheinende Tageszeitung „Buenos Aires Herald". Viele argentinische Politiker, Unternehmer und Gewerkschaftsführer stehen sich für solche notwendigen Schritte jedoch selbst im Wege. Sie halten es offenbar für ausreichend, wenn das Land auch künftig von seiner allerdings noch beträchtlichen Substanz lebt.

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 25.11.86 pág. 19

Neuer Auto-Riese geht an den Start

VW und Ford fahren in Südamerika vereint / 12 Milliarden DM Umsatz

Wolfsburg (dpa/vwd) – *Die Zusammenarbeit von Volkswagen und Ford in Südamerika nimmt konkrete Formen an. Wie die* Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg, *mitteilte, haben der VW-Aufsichtsrat und der entsprechende „Board of Directors" der amerikanischen* Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, *der Gründung eines Gemeinschaftsunternehmens in Brasilien und Argentinien zugestimmt. Es entstehe eines der weltweit größten Unternehmen auf dem Automobilsektor, wird dazu erläutert.*

Sobald die abschließenden Detailverhandlungen beendet und durch entsprechende Vereinbarungen unterzeichnet sind, soll in Brasilien eine neue Holding-Gesellschaft gegründet werden, welche die Aktivitäten der *Volkswagen do Brasil S. A.* und der *Ford Brasil S. A.* koordinieren wird. Darüber hinaus werden die argentinischen Tochteruntrnehmen *Volkswagen Argentina S. A.* und *Ford Motor Argentina S. A.* in einer neuen Gesellschaft zusammengefaßt. Das gesamte Gemeinschaftsprojekt soll *Autolatina* heißen.

Wie dpa/vwd auf Anfrage weiter erfuhr, wird die Volkswagen AG an der geplanten Holding-Gesellschaft in Brasilien 51% und Ford 49% halten. Vermutlich ist in Argentinien eine ähnliche Regelung vorgesehen. Mit abschließenden Vereinbarungen könne im Frühjahr 1987 gerechnet werden.

Identität und Image der Marken VW und Ford, so die VW-Mitteilung weiter, sollen unverändert bleiben. Vertrieb, Kundendienst und Service der Produkte werden weiterhin über die jeweiligen separaten Händlernetze erfolgen. VW und Ford betreiben heute in Brasilien und Argentinien zusammen 15 Fabriken, die insgesamt über eine jährliche Fertigungskapazität von 900 000 Fahrzeugen – vom Personenwagen über leichte Nutzfahrzeuge bis zu Lastkraftwagen – verfügen.

75 000 Beschäftigte

Beide Firmen beschäftigen in Südamerika zusammen 75 000 Mitarbeiter und unterhalten ein Händlernetz von 1500 Betrieben. Die Gesellschaften arbeiten mit 5000 Zulieferern. Der Umsatz beider Unternehmen betrug 1985 in Brasilien und Argentinien insgesamt 4 Mrd. $ (rund 11,8 Mrd. DM).

Beide Firmen haben in Brasilien bei Personenwagen einen Marktanteil von rund 60% vor *General Motors* (rund 20%) und *Fiat* (etwa 13%). Auf dem vom Volumen her nicht so bedeutenden argentinischen Markt erreichen sie einen Anteil von zusammen über 30%. Außerdem sind dort noch *Renault*, *Fiat*, *Citroën* und *Peugeot* im Wettbewerb.

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 14.11.1986, p. 9

Genugtuung über Falkland-Resolution

Presse Lateinamerikas zufrieden mit OAS-Beschluß / Kein Kommentar aus London

Guatemala (dpa/Reuter)

Die einstimmige Verabschiedung der Resolution der Organisation Amerikanischer Staaten (OAS) über die Falkland-Inseln ist in Lateinamerika mit Genugtuung aufgenommen worden. Die Presse in der Region hob besonders hervor, daß die USA und die Staaten der englischsprachigen Karibik der Resolution zugestimmt haben, in der Großbritannien und Argentinien aufgefordert werden, über die Falkland-Inseln zu verhandeln und auch die Frage der Souveränität über die Inseln miteinzubeziehen.

Beide Seiten wurden aufgefordert, auf weitere Maßnahmen zu verzichten, die die „bestehende heikle Situation" verändert. Die Resolution war nach intensiven Verhandlungen erarbeitet und per Konsens, ohne Abstimmung von den 31 Mitgliedsstaaten angenommen worden. Das Londoner Außenministerium gab bisher keinerlei Kommentar zu der Resolution ab.

Argentinische Zeitungen sahen in der Zustimmung der USA einen Wechsel in der Position Washingtons. Nach Meinung der Zeitung *La Nacion* ist die Unterstützung der USA auch Ausdruck des Wunsches, daß London und Buenos Aires miteinander sprechen, bevor die von Großbritannien erklärte Ausdehnung der Fischereizone um die Inseln von 150 auf 200 Meilen am 1. Februar 1987 in Kraft tritt. Das Wirtschaftsblatt *Ambiente Fianciero* meinte kritisch, es sei eine eher „gemäßigte Resolution" verabschiedet worden.

Nicaragua warnt vor Vietnamisierung

Der stellvertretende nicaraguanische Außenminister Victor Hugo Tinoco hat am Mittwoch vor einer „Vietnamisierung" des Konflikts in Mittelamerika gewarnt. Bei der Konferenz der Organisation Amerikanischer Staaten (OAS) sagte er in Guatemala-Stadt, die USA bereiteten sich auf einen allumfassenden „Krieg und eine Intervention in Nicaragua" vor. Das schaffe eine „ernsthafte Bedrohung für die Zukunft des Friedens in Mittelamerika" und führe zu einer „Vietnamisierung" der Krise. Unter Bezug auf die jüngsten Zusammenstöße nicaraguanischer Regierungstruppen mit den von Honduras aus operierenden Contras sagte Tinoco, als Ergebnis der „illegalen Gewaltpolitik Nordamerikas" habe es eine „gefährliche Verschärfung der Spannungen an der Grenze gegeben".

habe. Hasenfus war bei einem Versorgungsflug für die Contras über Nicaragua abgeschossen und gefangengenommen worden. Die Staatsanwaltschaft erklärte in ihrem schriftlichen Schlußplädoyer, das in Managua veröffentlicht wurde, die Schuld des Angeklagten sei offenkundig. Das Urteil des Volkstribunals in Managua wird noch für diese Woche erwartet.

Labour: Regierung ist dumm

LONDON, 11. November (AFP). Der außenpolitische Sprecher der britischen Labour Party, George Foulkes, hat am Dienstag Außenminister Sir Goeffrey Howe aufgefordert, den Beschluß über die Kontrolle des Fischfangs um die Falkland-Inseln auszusetzen. Foulkes begründete dies mit einem Beschluß der spanischen Regierung vom vergangenen Wochenende, die vom 1. Februar 1987 an geltende britische Wirtschaftszone um den von Argentinien beanspruchten Archipel nicht anzuerkennen. Ein Streit mit Spanien wäre jedoch eine Katastrophe und könne enorme Ausmaße annehmen, warnte der Oppositionspolitiker.

Der Falkland-Beschluß der Regierung zeige deren „Dummheit", da sie einseitige Maßnahmen ergriffen habe, ohne sich vorher mit den EG-Partnern darüber abzusprechen. Foulkes forderte von der Regierung Thatcher, sie solle über die Wirtschaftszone um die Falkland-Inseln Verhandlungen mit den anderen EG-Ländern und insbesondere mit Spanien aufnehmen.

General für „Schlußstrich"

BUENOS AIRES, 20. November (AFP). Der argentinische Heereschef General Hector Rios Erenu hat am Mittwoch den Wunsch der Streitkräfte nach einem Schlußstrich unter die Folgen des sogenannten „schmutzigen Krieges" bekräftigt. In den siebziger Jahren waren im Zuge der Repression gegen die linke Guerilla Tausende von Menschen verschleppt und ermordet worden. Seit der Rückkehr zur Demokratie im Jahre 1983 gab es Prozesse gegen die Verantwortlichen der Übergriffe aus jener Zeit. Erenu unterstrich bei einem Gedenkakt des Heeres für die Opfer des „schmutzigen Krieges" die Notwenigkeit, „einen Weg zu suchen, der die nationale Aussöhnung erlaubt, damit alle, die eine Aufgabe zu erfüllen haben, dies optimal tun können".

Vier argentinische Menschenrechtsorganisationen haben ihrerseits gefordert, daß im Rahmen des Verfahrens gegen den ehemaligen Polizeichef der Provinz Buenos Aires, General Ramon Camps, 28 weitere ehemalige Polizei- und Militärchefs jener Zeit vor Gericht gestellt werden sollen. Den Betreffenden werden unter anderem Totschlag, illegale Freiheitsberaubung und Foltern vorgeworfen.

Lateinamerikareise geplant

Bonn. (AP) Bundespräsident Richard von Weizsäcker hat zugesagt, im März 1987 Staatsbesuche in Mittel- und Südamerika zu machen. Wie das Bundespräsidialamt gestern in Bonn bekanntgab, wird sich das Staatsoberhaupt in Begleitung seiner Frau zwei Wochen in dieser Region aufhalten. Erste Station der Reise vom 16. bis 29. März ist Argentinien. Es folgen die Länder Bolivien und Guatemala. Einzelheiten der Reise werden noch festgelegt.

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 13.11.1986, p. 7

OAS-Appell wegen des Falkland-Konflikts

Argentinien und Großbritannien sollen zu einer Verhandlungslösung kommen

Guatemala (AP/Reuter/dpa)

Nach sechsstündiger Debatte hat die Außenministerkonferenz der Organisation Amerikanischer Staaten (OAS) am Dienstag in einer einstimmig verabschiedeten Entschließung Großbritannien und Argentinien zu einer Verhandlungslösung im Konflikt um die Falkland-Inseln aufgefordert. Der argentinische Außenminister Dante Caputo bezeichnete die britische Ankündigung, eine 200-Meilen-Fischereischutzzone um die in Lateinamerika Malvinen genannten Inseln zu errichten, nochmals als einen „echten Akt der Aggression".

Zwar nannten mehrere Sprecher, darunter auch die Vertreter Chiles und Nicaraguas, den britischen Schritt imperialistisch und provokativ, doch wurde in der Resolution auf eine Verurteilung Großbritanniens verzichtet. US-Außenminister Shultz verschob seinen Rückflug nach Washington um zwei Stunden, um sein zustimmendes Votum zu der Entschließung selbst abgeben zu können.

Shultz greift Managua erneut an

Zuvor hatte Shultz vor der Konferenz die Sowjetunion und Cuba scharf kritisiert und ihnen Waffenlieferungen an Guerillabewegungen in Lateinamerika vorgeworfen. Die sandinistische Regierung Nicaraguas beschuldigte der Minister, „den berechtigten Wunsch des nicaraguanischen Volkes nach einer echten Demokratie" zu unterdrücken. Nicaraguas Regierung wolle Mittelamerika destabilisieren, sagte Shultz. Man müsse der kommunistischen Einmischung in Mittelamerika offensiv entgegentreten. „Wir können keine Lippenbekenntnisse für die Demokratie abgeben, solange es angenehm und kostenlos ist und uns abwenden, sobald Kosten und Risiken aufkommen", sagte Shultz. Er versicherte jedoch, das die USA keine militärischen Operationen in Mittelamerika planten. Die Delegation Nicaraguas verließ die Konferenz während Sultz' Rede. Shultz erklärte später in Guatemala vor der Presse, er habe auf der Konferenz keine Ablehnung der Unterstützung der USA für die Contra-Rebellen in Nicaragua erfahren.

Die Generalversammlung der OAS vereinbarte auch die Bildung einer Interamerikanischen Kommission zur Kontrolle des Drogenmißbrauchs. Sie soll regionale Zentren zur Ausbildung für Rauschgiftfahnder, eine Datenbank und ein Dokumentationszentrum schaffen.

Die Contadora-Gruppe Kolumbien, Mexiko, Panama, Venezuela traf sich erneut, um die mittelamerikanische Friedeninitiative wieder zu beleben. Der venezolanische Außenminister Simon Alberto Consalvi meinte anschließend: „Es gab bessere Zeiten, in denen wir mit den fünf mittelamerikanischen Staaten sprachen, aber diese Zeiten sind vorbei." Costa Rica und Honduras haben wegen einer Klage Nicaraguas vor dem Internationalen Gerichtshof in Den Haag ihre Mitarbeit aufgekündigt.

SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 13.11.1986, p. 9

London bekräftigt Anspruch auf Falkland-Inseln

Jedoch auch normale Beziehungen zu Argentinien angestrebt

kr. **London** (Eigener Bericht)

Anläßlich der Eröffnung des britischen Parlaments hat Königin Elisabeth auch offiziell bekanntgegeben, daß sie anläßlich der 750-Jahr-Feier Berlin besuchen wird. In ihrer Rede, die traditionell vom Regierungschef verfaßt und von der Königin verlesen wird, wurde die Verpflichtung gegenüber der Bevölkerung der Falkland-Inseln bekräftigt, gleichzeitig jedoch betont, daß sich die Regierung Ihrer Majestät um eine Normalisierung der Beziehungen zu Argentinien bemühen werde.

Ungewöhnlich kurz war die Liste der Gesetzesvorhaben, die Premierministerin Margaret Thatcher der Königin aufgeschrieben hatte. Als wichtigstes der 19 angekündigten Gesetze gilt eines zur Kriminalitätsbekämpfung. Danach sollen unter anderem die Gerichte künftig in die Lage versetzt werden, Vermögenswerte zu beschlagnahmen, die durch Verbrechen verdient wurden. Umstritten ist das Vorhaben, die Höchststrafe für unbefugtes Waffentragen auf lebenslang heraufzusetzen. Kritiker führen ins Feld, daß bewaffnete Verbrecher nicht davor zurückschreckten zu schießen, wenn sie ohnehin die Höchststrafe zu erwarten hätten.

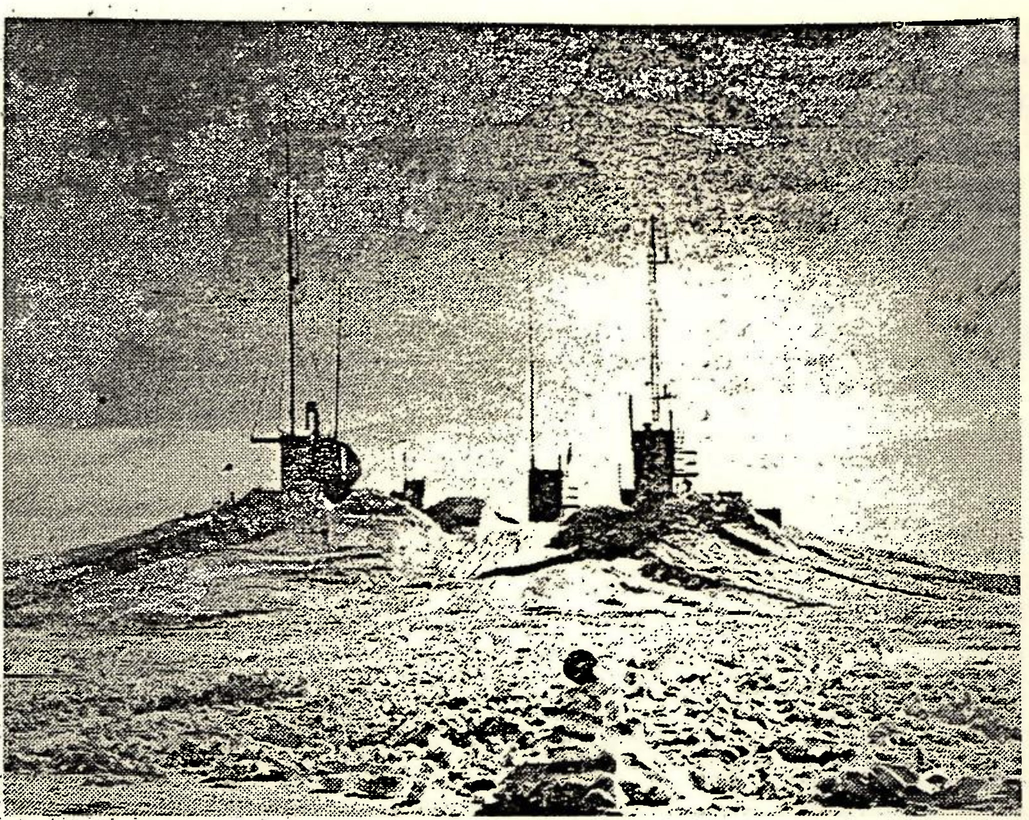
Die Tatsache, daß diesmal weniger Gesetze als sonst, zudem auch kaum kontroverse Gesetze angekündigt wurden, hat die Spekulation verstärkt, daß die Regierung tatsächlich im nächsten Jahr Neuwahlen ausschreiben will. Der spätestmögliche Zeitpunkt für allgemeine Wahlen wäre Mitte 1988.

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 13.11.1986, pgs. 48 y 49

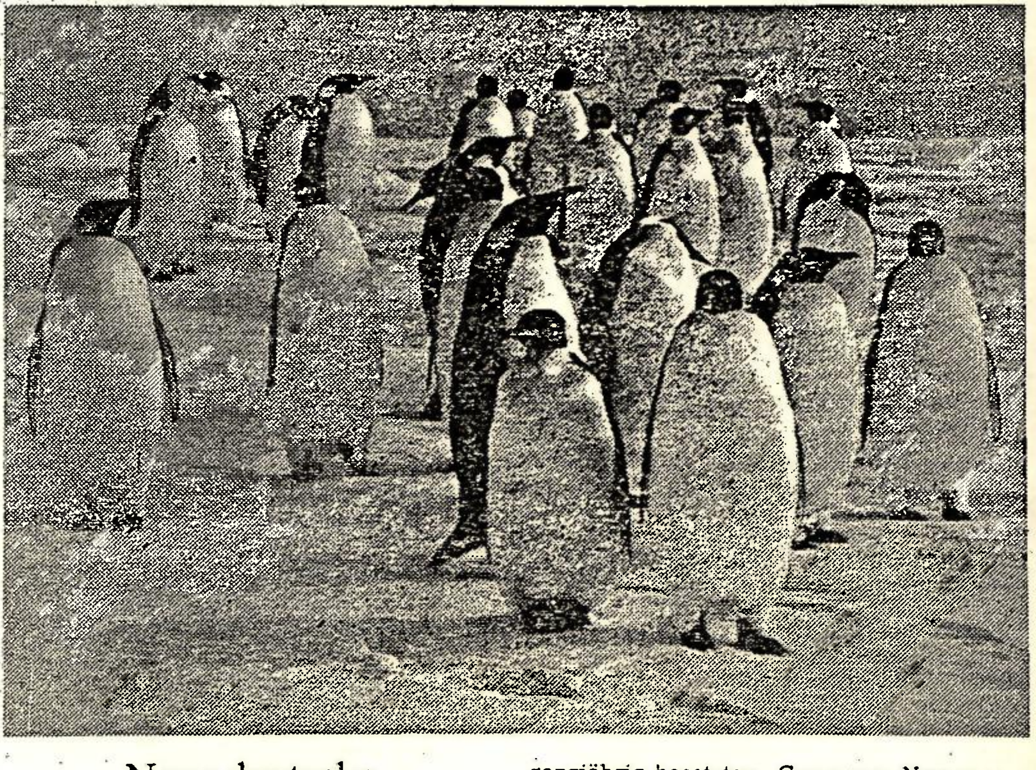
Hubschrauber entdeckt sowjetische Antarktis-Station

Bonn (dpa)

Ein Hubschrauber des deutschen Forschungsschiffs *Polarstern* hat die seit einigen Monaten verschollene sowjetische Forschungsstation „Drushnaya“ auf einer treibenden Eisinsel in der Antarktis ausgemacht. Die sowjetische Station befindet sich auf der mittleren von drei riesigen Eisinseln, die sich vom Filchner-Schelfeis gelöst haben und langsam in die Weddell-See driften.



KAISERPINGUINE *zu studieren ist unter anderem ein Ziel einer neuen, der fünften deutschen Forschungsstation in der Antarktis. Zentrum der deutschen Antarktis-Forschung ist die ganzjährig besetzte Georg-von-Neumayer-Station (unser Bild).* Photos: Archiv



Neue deutsche Antarktis-Station

Eine neue Antarktis-Station der Bundesrepublik ist jetzt im Schelfeis der östlichen Weddell-See eröffnet worden. Nach Angaben des Alfred-Wegener-Instituts für Polar- und Meeresforschung handelt es sich bei der nach einem deutschen Robbenbiologen genannten „Drescher-Station“ um eine biologisch-meteorologische Forschungseinrichtung. Neben der ganzjährig besetzten „Georg-von-Neumayer-Station“ und drei Sommerstationen ist die neue Station die fünfte bundesdeutsche Forschungsstelle in der Antarktis. Auf der „Drescher-Station“ wollen sechs Wissenschaftler zunächst etwa sechs Wochen lang unter anderem Entwicklung und Verhalten von frischgeborenen Weddell-Robben untersuchen. Außerdem sollen Größe und Fortpflanzungsrate sowie die Verbreitung von Kaiserpinguinen ermittelt werden.

dpa/fwt

200

GENERAL ANZEIGER, 13.11.1986, p. 24

Verschollene Eisstation gefunden

Bremerhaven. (dpa) Ein Hubschrauber des deutschen Forschungsschiffs „Polarstern" hat die seit einigen Monaten verschollene sowjetische Forschungs-Station Drushnaya auf einer treibenden Eisinsel in der Antarktis ausgemacht. Die sowjetische Station, in der bislang in jedem Südsommer bis zu 100 sowjetische Wissenschaftler arbeiteten, befindet sich auf der mittleren von drei riesigen Eisinseln, die sich Mitte dieses Jahres vom Filchner-Schelfeis gelöst hatten und nun langsam in die Weddell-See driften.

Die mit teuren technischen Geräten ausgerüstete Polarstation war zur Zeit des Unglücks unbesetzt. Wie aus einem Telex des Forschungsschiffes „Polarstern" an das Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung in Bremerhaven hervorgeht, war der Hubschrauber am vergangenen Sonntag zu einem Aufklärungsflug zu den neuen Eisinseln gestartet.

USA beschuldigen Nicaragua

OAS-Konferenz steht im Falkland-Konflikt zu Argentinien

GUATEMALA-STADT, 12. November (dpa/AFP/AP). Vor der Generalversammlung der Organisation Amerikanischer Staaten (OAS) in Guatemala-Stadt hat US-Außenminister George Shultz am Dienstag abermals die Regierung Nicaraguas beschuldigt, Mittelamerika destabilisieren zu wollen. Er versicherte jedoch, daß die USA keine militärischen Operationen in Mittelamerika planten.

In einer anschließenden Pressekonferenz betonte Shultz aber, daß die „Völker, die in Nicaragua oder jedwedem anderen Land um ihre Freiheit und Unabhängigkeit kämpfen, die Unterstützung der Vereinigten Staaten haben werden". Shultz dementierte, daß die US-Regierung Druck auf OAS-Mitglieder ausübe, damit sie sich für Wirtschaftssanktionen gegen Nicaragua aussprechen.

Zuvor hatte Shultz vor der Konferenz die Sowjetunion und Kuba scharf kritisiert und ihnen vorgeworfen, Waffen an Aufstandsbewegungen in Lateinamerika zu liefern. Auch die DDR, Nordkorea, Vietnam und Libyen förderten durch Militärberater Unsicherheit und Gewalt in der Spannungsregion.

Die OAS unterstützte in einer von allen Delegationen angenommenen Resolution die Forderung Argentiniens, mit Großbritannien über die Falkland-Inseln zu verhandeln und dabei die Frage der Souveränität einzubeziehen. Beide Länder wurden aufgefordert, alle Schritte zu unterlassen, die die bestehende Situation verändern. Argentiniens Außenminister Dante Caputo erklärte sich außerordentlich zufrieden mit der Resolution, in der „tiefe Besorgnis" über den britischen Beschluß, eine 200-Meilen-Wirtschaftszone um den Archipel zu schaffen, bekundet wird. Durch den britischen Beschluß werde ein „neues Element der Spannung und eines potentiellen Konfliktes" in der Region geschaffen, heißt es weiter im Text.